

Let us seek God's presence through quiet meditation during the prelude.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready.
Make preparations for us there.*

- Mark 14:15

INTRODUCTION: The Upper Room

In this Places of the Passion service for Maundy Thursday, we climb the stairs to the Upper Room to join the disciples in receiving the body and blood of Christ in bread and wine. We are reminded here that Jesus sets a place at the table for each of us, even though he knows all that we have done. Amazingly, we find that he is willing to give completely of himself to forgive us.

OPENING HYMN

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

ELW #359

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 116:3-6, 12-13

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C To see the depths of his love.

P To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

C To gaze upon the heights of his grace.

P To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

C We travel to the Upper Room.

P To watch as Christ delivers the Gospel.

C In his true body and blood.

P Faithful Lord, with me abide.

C I shall follow where you guide.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C O Lord, in this wonderful Sacrament you left us a remembrance of your
passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of your body and
blood that the fruits of your redemption may continually be manifest in us;
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 12:1-4, 11b-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

PSALM 116:1-2, 12-13

L ¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

C ² **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

L ¹² How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

C ¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 26th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:17-29

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN

“Lamb of God”

page 154

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

ELW #592

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

P Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW #186

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO FIRST COMMUNION

P At this time, we are delighted to invite forward those who participated in the First Communion classes. These individuals learned about communion and baked the bread for our communion today.

P Today we join with these young people and their families to again break bread in the presence of the risen Lord and have our eyes opened and our hearts burn with faith, with hope and with love.

C **We gladly join with you at the Lord's Table today, one in Christ through the mystery of this gift of life and the promise of God's most holy word.**

P Let us pray together.

C **Dear Lord,
throughout time your word told us of and promised us your steadfast love. In this sacred meal that we are about to celebrate, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, comes with forgiveness and new life in bread and wine and your word and Holy Spirit. May our hearts be opened to your presence and goodness. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We invite all those who are baptized to share this special meal of forgiveness and renewal. Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Gluten free wafers and apple juice are available.

COMMUNION HYMNS	“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”	ELW #494
	“Christ, the Life of All the Living”	ELW #339
	“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”	ELW #335

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Jesus invites us to walk with him to the Upper Room, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

CLOSING HYMN “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” (vs. 1 & 2) ELW #802

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

THE SERVICE ENDS IN SILENCE

Please leave in silence. Our services start on Thursday and end on Sunday, therefore no dismissal on Thursday. We gather in silence on Friday and also depart in silence letting the message of the crucifixion help us prepare for our Sunday worship celebration.

THE PLACES OF THE PASSION by Reed Lessing. © 2021 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved.

Except as noted, the liturgy is reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Copyright © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS012988.

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS012988.

Stripping of the Altar

After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord, Events moved rapidly:

Prayer in Gethsemane
Betrayal by Judas
Arrest, mock trial, painful beating
The trudge to Golgotha and execution.

As his life was stripped from him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolize his purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

Palms: Less than a week ago Jesus entered Jerusalem as a peaceful king. At the Last Supper he humbled himself before his followers and became a servant. Now the palms are removed from the sanctuary as Christ is betrayed by His loved ones, stripped of his dignity and treated as a common criminal.

Candles: Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.” The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when he suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

Offering Plates: Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God’s greatest offering to the world and to us in sending his Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

The Missal Stand and Worship Book: Our worship book guides our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand and book.

Communion Vessels: Jesus’ offered Body and his shed Blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine. As he was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this sacrament.

Paraments: Our altar is in the form of a table. It is here where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at his banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade; materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King’s body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.