

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*This is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

- Matthew 26:28

INTRODUCTION: Poured Out

This day of Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, is named for the Latin word for commandment. Jesus gave us a new command, to love one another as he loves us. In Holy Communion we will receive the loving gift of his body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

OPENING HYMN

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

ELW #347

INVOCATION AND LITANY

Psalm 116:3-6, 12-13

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

C **I suffered distress and anguish.**

P Then I called on the name of the Lord:

C **“O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”**

P Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;

C **Our God is merciful.**

P The Lord preserves the simple;

C **When I was brought low, he saved me ...**

P What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

C **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

C Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We do not always walk in your ways and we do not love others as we should. We turn away from listening to your Word to listen to the tempting voices of the world around us. We follow our own selfish desires instead of following your will. Have mercy on us and forgive us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus suffered and died for us, pouring out his blood for the forgiveness of our sins. He rose from death on the third day to give us eternal life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C **What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

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 **Lord Jesus, on the night you were betrayed, you prayed that the cup of suffering might pass from you. But you said in prayer to your Father, "Your will be done." You obeyed your Father's will for the sake of our salvation. On that same night, you offered to your disciples and to us your body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins.**

Then you allowed yourself to be betrayed into the hands of your enemies. You were unfairly tried and condemned to death for the sake of our salvation. As we share your holy gift of your body and blood, in communion with you, with one another and with all the saints, we proclaim your redeeming death until you return in glory. King of kings and Lord of lords, hear our prayer and receive our praise. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34

SECOND LESSON: Exodus 12:11b-14

PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19

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.**

L ¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.

C ¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**

L ¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant,
the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

C ¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

L ¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,

C ¹⁹ **in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:17-20, 26-29, 36-39

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

HYMN "Lamb of God" page 154

SERMON "Poured Out"

HYMN OF THE DAY "Christ, the Life of All the Living" ELW #339

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

P Jesus, Lamb of God,

C **Have mercy on us.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Create in Me a Clean Heart" ELW #186

OFFERING PRAYER

P Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.
Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies.
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS	“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”	ELW #494
	“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”	ELW #337
	“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”	ELW #324

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.

BLESSING

1 Corinthians 11:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14

P As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,

C You proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

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

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN	“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”	ELW #335
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STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

THE SERVICE ENDS IN SILENCE

Please leave in silence. Our services start on Thursday and end on Sunday, therefore no benediction 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.

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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.