

Maundy Thursday
March 28, 2024 7:00 p.m. Service



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
'HEARING, SHARING, AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'

IN SHARED MINISTRY WITH
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH, BUFFALO



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

'HEARING, SHARING, AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'

Pastor Jeffrey Sippy

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Administrative Assistant – Sonya Gorman



You are invited to use the yellow prayer cards located in the pew for prayer requests. Please hand this card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

*** Please turn off cellphones ***

Holy Communion is offered tonight:

The Lord's Supper is a "sacrament," a means of grace, by which God gives to us His mercy, grace, and new life. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives to us His body and blood in the simple vessels of bread and wine, with His word. Jesus says, "This is my body. This is my blood." When we receive the Sacrament in faith, we receive the gifts of forgiveness, *stronger* faith, and strength to live a new and holy life. God's Word teaches us to examine ourselves, to confess our sin, and to receive the Sacrament in faith, trusting in Jesus' word (*1 Corinthians 11:17-32*). The Scriptures also teach us to trust Jesus' Word that He is *really and truly* present for the gifts He gives. If you have any questions or doubts about the Sacrament, or other matters of life and faith, you can speak with Pastor Sippy before you commune. He will encourage you in this matter. We ask children who have not communed with us before to meet with Pastor Sippy so that he can prepare children for a faithful receiving of Jesus' gifts.

MY CLOSE FRIEND

Have you ever been betrayed by someone close to you? You are not alone. King David prayed in Psalm 41:9, “Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.” To have a heel lifted against you is to receive a tremendous kick. It is a kick that sends you reeling and knocks the breath out of you—much like the feeling of being betrayed by a trusted friend. When trust has been broken, you can pray David’s words as your own and put your trust in the One whose betrayal they prophesy. Jesus, too, knows what it means to be betrayed and is betrayed for you and me. He takes the pain and shame of betrayal upon Himself and gives to you and me His body and blood, forgiveness, hope, and peace. What a Friend We Have in Jesus!



MAUNDY THURSDAY
Divine Service – Setting One
March 24, 2024 7:00 p.m.

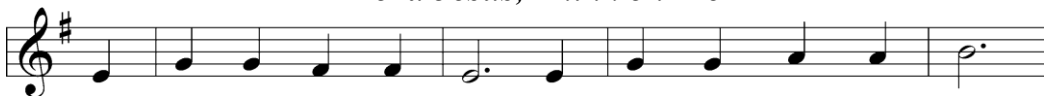
Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn

LSB 610 sts. 1-5

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

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Stand

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

CONFSSIONAL ADDRESS

P Dear friends, Jesus says (*John 15:13*), “Greater love has no man than this, that he lays down his life for his friends.” This Jesus does for you and me and all creation...

Even while we and all people fall short of friendship with Jesus, Jesus remains a friend to us. Romans 5:8 declares, “God demonstrates His love for us in this, while we were yet enemies of God, Christ Jesus died for us.”

On this Maundy Thursday observance, let us remember the great humility and devotion of Jesus, who washes His disciples’ feet and washes our sins away.

Maundy is an old English rendering of the Latin word, **Mandatum**, or commandment. Jesus says, “A new commandment I give to you, as I have loved you, love one another.”

That we would receive the body and blood of Jesus faithfully and worthily, and that we would benefit from this eating and drinking, let us first examine ourselves in the mirror of God’s Word, confess our sin and receive His forgiveness, and pray for the Holy Spirit to lead us in a new and holy life.

(Silence for personal reflection. Lay before Jesus any hurts and worries, any anxieties, fears, and doubts that lay upon your heart; as well, lay any sin, guilt, or shame that burdens you; and meditate again upon Jesus' love for you: You are forgiven, even before you ask, and are reconciled to God.)

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Fix your eyes upon Jesus,

C the author of our faith, and the One who makes our faith complete.

P Who for the Joy set before Him,

C endured the cross, scorned its shame, and now sits at the right hand of God, and making intercession for us.

P Almighty God, Heavenly Father, we bow before you on this Holy Thursday remembering the love and friendship of your Son, Jesus. We confess our sins before you, and ask for the sake of Jesus that you would forgive us to be your friends and servants again:

C Almighty God and Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. In our sin, we betray you. In our sin, we betray others. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. But for the sake of your Son, Jesus, have mercy upon us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that, by your Word and Spirit, we would live a new and holy life to the honor of Your name. Amen.

P God be merciful to you and strengthen Your faith.

C Amen.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I proclaim to you is not my forgiveness but God's forgiveness?

C Yes.

P And do you believe that forgiveness is not only pardon for your sin but power and strength to live a new and holy life to God?

C Yes.

P My dear friends in Christ, you are friends of Jesus. Jesus lays down His life in love for each of you and gives to you a new and holy life in His name. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare to you: Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are a new creation. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

C Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 41

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

C In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him;

P the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

C You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

P The Lord sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.

C As for me, I said, “O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!”

P My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”

C And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.

P All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

C They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”

P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

C **But You, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**

P By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

C **But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Dearest Lord Jesus, on this sacred and holy Maundy Thursday, we remember Your suffering and passion, the washing of Your disciples' feet, and the instituting of Your Holy Supper. Grant to us Your Holy Spirit and true faith to receive Your Sacrament in worthy fashion to trust and believe Your words "given and shed for you," to receive Your gift of forgiveness for our sin, and to be renewed in our faith to live a new and holy life that is pleasing to You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Be seated

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 12:1–14

P The Old Testament reading is from Exodus, the twelfth chapter.

1 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. 4 And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, 6 and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

7 “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. 10 And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11 In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord’s Passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 11:23–32

P The Epistle reading is from First Corinthians, the eleventh chapter.

23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” 25 In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. 2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist.

5 Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” 7 Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” 8 Peter said to Him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with Me.”

9 Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” 10 Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” 11 For he knew who was to betray Him; that was why He said, “Not all of you are clean.”

12 When He had washed their feet and put on His outer garments and resumed His place, He said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you?”

13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who

sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. 18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate My bread has lifted his heel against Me.’ 19 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am He. 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the one who sent Me.”

21 After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in His spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.” 22 The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom He spoke. 23 One of His disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus, 24 so Simon Peter motioned to Him to ask Jesus of whom He was speaking. 25 So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to Him, “Lord, who is it?” 26 Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when He had dipped the morsel, He gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.” 28 Now no one at the table knew why He said this to him. 29 Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor. 30 So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

P G I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,**

**God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to
the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

*Public domain***Sermon****Pastor Jeffrey Sippy****“My Close Friend”*****Sermon Text******Psalm 41:9****Stand***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P Let us pray for all people, and each according to their needs, and for ourselves as disciples of Jesus to be witnesses and servants of God and all:

P We pray for the Church, the very bride of Christ, and that we would learn more deeply the Maundy Thursday commandment that, as Jesus has so loved us and washed our feet, we, too, would love one another and all people, and that we would continue to learn the ways of Jesus, to forgive sins, to turn the other cheek, and to go the extra mile. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for schools and places of learning throughout our nation; for the public schools of Buffalo and Bolivar; for SBU; for Zion Christian Preschool; for teachers, coaches, and administrators; for students; and all others; that by God's grace and Spirit there would be an environment rich for learning and mercy, grace and growing in God's Wisdom and will. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for ourselves in preparation for the paschal feast of Christ's body and blood. We pray God to grant us faith to receive Jesus' words, "Given and shed for you, for the forgiveness of sin." We pray God to grant that by this eating and drinking we would grow in our faith, trust and believe in Jesus' word of forgiveness, and be guided by God's word to live a holy and repentant life. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray that God would equip and enable each of us to be a bright light and witness in our community, that we would be both an encouragement and an example to others, and that we would have a greater understanding of how to listen in love and reach out to all with Jesus' love and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for all those who are in authority over us, that God would provide each in authority His protection and blessing, wisdom, mercy, and direction, and that God would grant to us the love and honor commanded of us, and that we would live quiet and respectful lives in peace and holiness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, and those who struggle with loneliness, depression, and mental illness, and we pray for ourselves, and God’s people everywhere, that God would grant us His love and kindness for others, and that we would be guided by God’s Spirit to love our neighbors in need; Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for those who are sick or ill, those who are undergoing medical treatment, therapy, or care, for those who live in long-term care facilities, and for those for whom our prayers are requested _____, that God would grant His grace that is sufficient for all things, His peace that passes understanding, His healing and strength when it is His will, and faith to sustain each in life’s trial. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation, and we ask you to nurture us in faith and guide us by your Word and Sacrament; In Jesus’ name we pray, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Following the prayers, the people greet one another in the name of the Lord saying, “Peace be with you.”

Offering

In quiet devotion and responding in personal stewardship of God's abundant provision to you, please use the offering plate in the back as you enter or exit. (This is just as it says: An offering to God through His church. As a reassurance to those in worship today, especially our guests - this is not an obligation - the good news of Jesus is free to all!)

OFFERTORY

LSB 159

P C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

LSB 160

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 Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

☐ ☿ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

LORD’S PRAYER

LSB 162

☐ Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☿ 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 162

☐ Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

☐ In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

P C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution Hymn

LSB 849 sts. 1-3

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



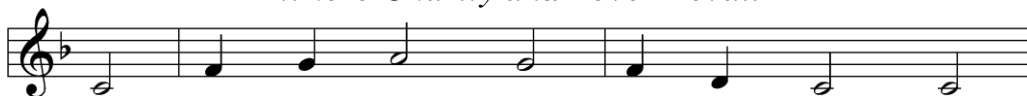
storms, and feed-ing thou-sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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Distribution Hymn

LSB 845 sts. 1-6

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let



God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
we our faults con - fess, And let us love each
all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.

6 For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.

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POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

LSB 166

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, You wash our feet, You dry our tears, and You wash our sins away. In great love and devotion, You declare us Your friends and You give up Your life for us. Grant to us, dear Jesus, the sacred benefit of eating and drinking Your body and blood. Assure us that by this eating and drinking our sins are forgiven, our faith is fervent, and that we are now strong and fully equipped to turn from ourselves and sin and to live holy and pleasing lives for You. In Your name we pray, for You live and reign with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR +

During the singing of the hymn, “Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way,” the communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday.

Hymn

LSB 857 sts. 1-5

“Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way”



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
 2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
 3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You
 4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
 pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
 place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
 count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.
fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.
mean - est task That waits the gift of love.

5 Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self,
Each serve the other's need.

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Stand

PSALM – *The congregation reads in unison*

Psalm 22

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

2 O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.

3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.

4 In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.

5 They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.

7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

8 "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

9 Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.

10 From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

12 Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

13 Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.

14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.

16 Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.

17 I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.

18 They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

19 But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

20 Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.

21 Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

22 I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.

23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

24 For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows.

26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him – may your hearts live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

28 for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.

29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before Him – those who cannot keep themselves alive.

30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

31 They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn – for he has done it.

(We depart the sanctuary in silence, pondering the great mercy and love of Jesus, our Savior and Friend.)

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