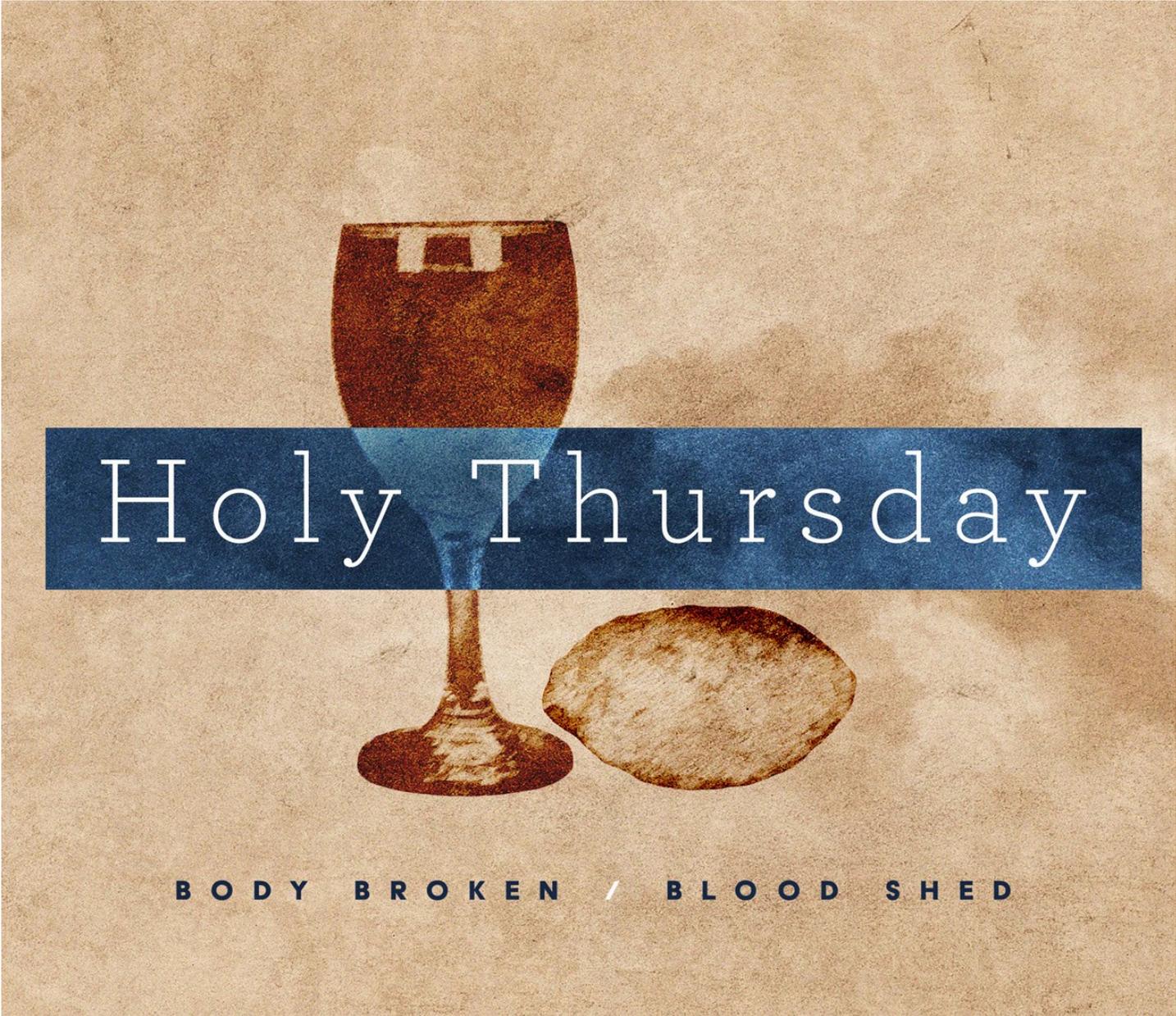


Holy Thursday

April 18, 2019



# Holy Thursday

B O D Y   B R O K E N   /   B L O O D   S H E D



Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this evening. We are happy that you are here! In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. If you are a guest, please fill out a Connection card found in our entryway. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor or an usher as you leave.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

**Bathrooms** are located at the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.

**Children's Activity Sheets** give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for today's service. Ask an usher at the door into the sanctuary. If your little one needs a moment, there is a speaker and window in our entryway that will allow you to see and hear the service.

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated as part of this evening's worship service. Here at Our Savior Lutheran Church, we practice "membership communion" and ask that only members come forward to receive the sacrament. On page 156 in the front of the hymnal, there is a "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" you can use to prepare to receive Christ's true body and blood.

**Free WIFI** is available if you use an online Bible or Bible app on your phone or tablet. Look for the "OSLC\_Guest" connection to get online!

**Looking for more information?** If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, You can stay up to date and in the know by connecting with Our Savior online.

 [OurSaviorBirmingham.com](http://OurSaviorBirmingham.com) | Video and audio sermons archives, calendar of events, and more!

 [@OurSaviorBham](https://twitter.com/OurSaviorBham) | Daily Bible passage, weekly sermon videos, and upcoming events

 [OurSaviorBham](https://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorBham) | Daily Bible passage, weekly video worship service previews, and upcoming events

 [OurSaviorBham](https://www.instagram.com/OurSaviorBham) | Daily Bible passage, event pictures, and church pictures

 [OurSaviorBham](https://www.youtube.com/OurSaviorBham) | Weekly sermon videos and worship service previews

 [Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com](mailto:Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com) | Pastor Kratz's email

**Our Savior Lutheran Church** is a member of a group of more than twelve hundred churches called Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church body with congregations serving the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world mission work.



# TODAY'S WORSHIP

A New Covenant

April 18, 2019

As part of our Holy Week worship life, we observe, in part, an ancient custom of the early Christian Church. Beginning with the evening worship on Holy Thursday and continuing through Holy Saturday's Easter Vigil, these services were considered to be one service and called the Triduum (The Three Days). Even though people go home to rest and carry out their necessary responsibilities, they are encouraged to remember that at least in spirit, they are still "worshiping" and remembering the events of Holy Week. No benediction concludes this service as an indication that the service continues for two more days.

Tonight, we remember the first Passover meal and celebrate the meal that was given to us when Jesus celebrated Passover--on the night when He was betrayed. Blood paints the way to salvation. Yet "not all the blood beasts" (CW 128) could for sin atone. Fulfilling the Old, the Lamb of God establishes the New Covenant in his own body and blood.

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet moments in prayer before the service. Review the Scripture readings, the service notes, and pray this prayer:*

Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: [Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com](mailto:Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- "*Our Blessing Cup*," Psalm 116. Marty Haugen. © 1983 GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
- "*Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled*," Text, Tune, Setting: David Haas. © 1995 GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# Order of Service

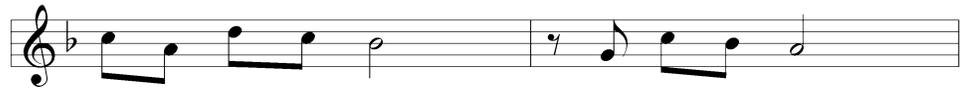
*Just as Ash Wednesday begins Lent, so Holy Thursday marks the end of Lent proper and the beginning of the Three Holy Days of Christendom (the Triduum). The institution of the Lord's Supper sets forth the depth of Jesus' love and gives power to the church to live out his command. As with Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday occupies a unique place in the church calendar. It is a festival in which reconciliation is solemnly expressed and in which the congregation makes its transition from preparation for the celebration of the mystery of the Passion and Resurrection, to the celebration itself.*

*The service begins with the sermon and an exhortation regarding the end of Lent. This unusual arrangement allows the minister to explain the meaning of the Sacrament and the liturgical actions that are to take place so that they may proceed uninterruptedly and vividly from this evening through Good Friday to Easter.*

## HYMN #742 *What Is This Bread?*



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from	the	dead:	This	bread	we	break.
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	The	cup	of	grace
live	and	he	should	die	Un -	der	the
Word	and	prom -	ise	clear.	In	mouth	and
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be -	lieve



This	life	we	take	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	his	em -	brace	Of	life	and	love	un -	til	I
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	you	not	for -	sak -	en
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru -	ly	pre -	sent	in	this
That	I	re -	ceive	His	ver -	y	bod -	y	and	his



lease.	Oh,	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	Oh,	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	Oh,	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	Oh,	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	Oh,	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

*This hymn nicely summarizes Martin Luther's fine discussion on the institution and blessings of Holy Communion as outlined in his Small Catechism.*



## INSTRUCTION FOR THE END OF LENT

In this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

### **Confession & Forgiveness**

*When we approach our holy Lord in worship, it is appropriate that we confess our sins to him and seek his forgiveness. After hearing the Gospel words of forgiveness, the congregation responds with a spoken amen—the congregation verbalizes its faith and expresses agreement with this good news of forgiveness and absolution.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

**PLEASE STAND**

**Almighty God, merciful Father,**

**I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.**

**In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.**

**I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.**

**For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**

**I am truly sorry for my sins.**

**I repent of them.**

**I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

*Silence for personal confession and reflection*

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**Cleanse me from my sins.**

**Release me from my guilt.**

**Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light.

**Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

**Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**PLEASE BE SEATED**



### Prayer of the Day

*This prayer often focuses on the content of the Gospel or Second Reading, aiding in the unity of thought through the service. Many of the Prayers of the Day have deep roots in the history of the Christian Church.*



### First Reading

*The first reading generally comes from the Old Testament (except during the Easter season, when it is from the book of Acts) and is chosen to match the emphasis of the Gospel.*

## FIRST READING *Jeremiah 31:31-34 (pg. 1873)*

*Jeremiah prophesies of the New Covenant. Quoted in Hebrews 10 and fulfilled in Luke 22, this prophecy proclaims a time that has now come. Gone is the covenant of old. It is replaced by knowledge of the Lord, membership in his family, and the forgiveness of sins. He is our God; we are his people.*

<sup>31</sup> “The time is coming,” declares the LORD,

“when I will make a new covenant

with the house of Israel

and with the house of Judah.

<sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant

I made with their forefathers

when I took them by the hand

to lead them out of Egypt,

because they broke my covenant,

though I was a husband to them,”

declares the LORD.

<sup>33</sup> “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel

after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds

and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,

and they will be my people.

<sup>34</sup> No longer will a man teach his neighbor,

or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’

because they will all know me,

from the least of them to the greatest,”

declares the LORD.

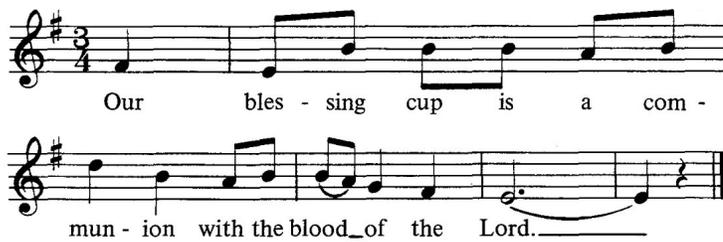
“For I will forgive their wickedness

and will remember their sins no more.”

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY *Psalm 116*



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*The leader will introduce the refrain and sing the verses of the song.  
The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain as indicated.*

Refrain.

Refrain.

*How can I make a return to the Lord for all he has done for me?  
The cup of salvation I will take up, I will call on the name of the Lord.*

**Refrain.**

*Precious, indeed, in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones;  
And I am your servant, your chosen one, for you have set me free.*

**Refrain.**

*Unto your name I will offer my thanks for the debt that I owe to you.  
In the presence of all who have called on your name, in the courts of the house of the Lord.*

**Refrain.**

THIS IS MY  
BODY  
THIS IS MY  
BLOOD



**Psalm of the Day**

*Use of the Psalms in worship dates back to the Old Testament, where the common recitation of the Psalter (book of Psalms) served to unite the Jews scattered across the lands. In singing the Psalms as God's people across the centuries, we proclaim the peace of Christ dwells in us richly.*



## Second Reading

*The Second Reading is from the New Testament letters of the apostles or the Revelation to St. John. It stresses Christian faith and Christian living as a response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## SECOND READING *Hebrews 10:15-25 (pg. 1873)*

*Linking promise we heard in the sermon text to its fulfillment, shadow to reality, the Holy Spirit testifies to the new covenant. The sacrifice has been made, once for all. The purifying waters of baptism have connected us to his death and life. His blood marks the door frames of our hearts. Yes, all barriers have been removed so that we may approach the God of the Covenant in the full confidence of forgiveness*

<sup>15</sup> The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

<sup>16</sup> “This is the covenant I will make with them  
after that time, says the Lord.  
I will put my laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds.”

<sup>17</sup> Then he adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts  
I will remember no more.”

<sup>18</sup> And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

PLEASE STAND

## GOSPEL *Luke 22:7-20 (pg. 1637)*

The Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 22.

**Glory be to you, O Lord!**

*Here is the final Passover and the establishment of the New Covenant meal. Through the sacrifice of his own body and blood, the Lamb of God brings assurance of the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of faith. Participation in this, his body and blood, proclaims his death until we eat and drink it with him in eternity.*

<sup>7</sup> Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

<sup>9</sup> "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

<sup>10</sup> He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, <sup>11</sup> and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>12</sup> He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."

<sup>13</sup> They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

<sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

<sup>19</sup> And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

<sup>20</sup> In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY #313 *Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior (v1-4)*



### Gospel

*The Gospel sets the theme for the entire service. The congregation stands for its reading which also serves as a visual reminder that the Gospels are the climax of the Scriptures. The rest of the Old and New Testaments center around who Jesus is and what he did for us as recorded in the Gospels.*



### Hymn of the Day

*The hymn of the day is generally viewed as the "teaching" or "liturgical" hymn of the service. This hymn usually has the deepest theological text as compared to the rest of the hymns in the service. It is most closely connected to the Gospel and is specifically chosen to reinforce the congregation's understanding of the Gospel which was just read.*

## Offering

*Our offerings are a response to the Lord for his goodness to us, which we heard about in the readings and sermon. They are to be given on a regular basis and be the first fruits of what we receive.*



## The Great Litany

*Litany, in Christian worship and some forms of Judaic worship, is a form of prayer used in services and processions, and consisting of a number of petitions. The Great Litany was used as early as the fifth century in the early Christian Church.*

## OFFERING

*This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Our Savior Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work of sharing the Gospel. If you are a guest with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate.*

*If you would like to help Our Savior with this important mission, there are several ways to make a tax-deductible contribution (the latter two provide options for either one-time or recurring gifts):*

*Place your offering in the plate*

*Use the "Tithe.ly" app on your phone (iOS or Android)*

*Click on "Give" at [OurSaviorBirmingham.com](http://OurSaviorBirmingham.com) on your phone or computer*

## THE GREAT LITANY

### ***Prayer of Approach to God***

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

**Have mercy on us.**

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**Have mercy on us.**

O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God,

**Have mercy on us.**

### ***Prayer for Deliverance***

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses nor the offenses of our forebears. Spare us, good Lord; spare your people, whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.

**Spare us, good Lord.**

From all spiritual blindness; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all lack of charity,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all deadly sin and from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart and contempt for your Word and your will,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From earthquake and tempest; from drought, fire, and flood; from civil strife and violence; from war and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

***Prayer Recalling Christ's Saving Work***

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and by your proclamation of the kingdom,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your bloody sweat and bitter grief, by your cross and suffering, and by your precious death and burial,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection, by your glorious ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

In our times of trouble, in our times of prosperity, in the hour of death, and on the day of judgment,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

Receive our prayers, O Lord our God.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

***Prayer for the Church***

Govern and direct your holy Church, fill it with love and truth, and grant it that unity which is according to your will.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Enlighten all ministers with true knowledge and understanding of your Word, that by their preaching and living they may declare it clearly and show its truth.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Encourage and prosper your servants who spread the gospel in all the world, and send out laborers into the harvest.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless and keep your people, that all may find and follow their true vocation and ministry.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Give us hearts to love and revere you, that we may diligently live according to your commandments.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

To all your people, give grace to hear and receive your Word and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Strengthen those who stand firm in the faith, encourage the fainthearted, raise up those who fall, and finally give us the victory.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

*Prayer for Our Country*

Rule the hearts of your servants, the president of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless and defend all who strive for our safety and protection, and shield them in all dangers and adversities.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Grant wisdom and insight to those who govern us and to judges and magistrates the grace to execute justice with mercy.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

*Prayer for All People*

To all nations grant unity, peace, and concord, and to all people give clothing, food, and shelter.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Grant us abundant harvests, strength and skill to conserve the resources of the earth, and wisdom to use them well.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Enlighten with your Spirit all who teach and all who learn.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Come to the help of all who are in danger, necessity, and trouble; protect all who travel by land, air, or water; and show your pity on all prisoners and captives.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Strengthen and preserve all women who are in childbirth and all young children, and comfort the aged, the bereaved, and the lonely.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Defend and provide for the widowed and the orphaned, the refugees and the homeless, the unemployed, and all who are desolate and oppressed.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Heal those who are sick in body or mind, and give skill and compassion to all who care for them.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Grant us true repentance, forgive our sins, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your Holy Word.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

### *Concluding Prayer*

Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

**Son of God, we ask you to hear 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;

**Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**Grant us peace.**

Lord, have mercy on us.

**Christ, have mercy on us.**

Lord, have mercy on us.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you, and you have promised through your beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his name, you will be with them. Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth and in the ages to come, life everlasting.

**Amen.**



### **Lord's Prayer**

*In this prayer, we pray to "Our Father in heaven," reminding us that we are God's chosen and dearly loved children.*

# The Sacrament of Holy Communion

PLEASE STAND

## PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



## Holy, Holy, Holy

### Sanctus

The Sanctus (coming from the Latin word for "holy") is the fourth of the five major liturgical canticles. It begins with an echo of the song of the seraphim from Isaiah 6 and continues with the words of the crowds on Palm Sunday. These words, used centuries ago to greet the promised Messiah remind us that Jesus also comes to us today in the Sacrament.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,  
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -  
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -  
ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

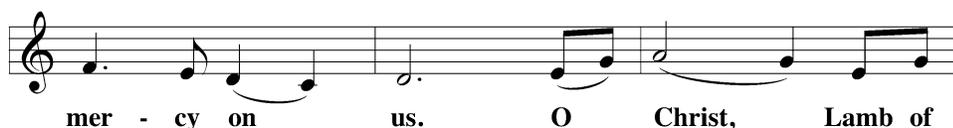
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

## LAMB OF GOD



### Words of Institution

*The pastor uses Christ's words to consecrate—to set apart—the bread and wine. Because they are the words of Jesus, they still accomplish today what they accomplished on Holy Thursday: effecting the real presence of Jesus body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine.*

### Pax Domini

*The pastor proclaims peace to the people through the Pax Domini (Latin for "peace of the Lord"). Again, the worshipers receive absolution and assurance that God's presence and peace are with them through the Sacrament.*



### Agnus Dei

*The Agnus Dei is the last of the liturgical canticles. Its Latin title simply means "Lamb of God." Believers approach the altar of God by the sacrificial substitute who died in our place. We join with the cry of John the Baptist to the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world and grants us mercy and peace. The Christian Church has sung this text before communion for more than thirteen centuries.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Our Savior Lutheran Church asks that only members come forward to receive the sacrament.*

*There is a Personal Preparation for Communion available on page 156 in the red hymnal.*

### Stripping of the Altar

*The post-communion action of stripping the altar has its roots in the early Church. The congregation sings a hymn as the communion vessels, cross, and candles are carried from the chancel. The altar is solemnly stripped in token of the Lord's abandonment by his disciples and in preparation for Good Friday. Once the communion vessels and appointments are removed, the altar, which represents the body of Christ, becomes the focus.*

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

### HYMN #759 *Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled*

*Refrain*

Do not let your hearts be trou - bled; have  
faith in God and faith in me. I will go  
forth to pre - pare a place for you; then I'll come  
back to take you with me, that where I  
am, you may al - so be.

1-3 *To verses*

*Last time* *Verses*

be. 1 In God's  
2 I am the  
3 The words I

house there are man - y plac - es For you a -  
Way, the Truth, and the Life; On - ly through  
speak are not on - ly of my - self; It is your

lone to dwell in safe - ty. You know the  
me can you know what I know. If you knew  
God who lives with - in me. If you be -

way to where I'll lead you; If you are  
me, you would know the Fa - ther; If you see  
lieve that your God and I are one, I will pro -

*To Refrain*  
lost, I will show the way.  
me, you see your God.  
vide when you call my name.

Text: John 14:1-3,6,7,10-14; alt. David Haas, b. 1957  
Tune: DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED (88 11 99 99 99)  
Text, Tune: David Haas, b. 1957 © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.*

## TOMORROW'S WORSHIP: SERVICE OF THE CROSS

As the middle service of the Triduum, Good Friday is prepared for by Holy Thursday. In turn, it leads into the Easter Vigil. The absence of a benediction the previous evening and again on Good Friday underscores the connectedness of the *Triduum* services. Good Friday is not a “funeral” for Jesus, but an austere celebration of the Lamb and his sacrifice. The bare altar, symbolic of Christ, is the focus along with a large, rough-finished wood cross that is placed before it. The Service of the Cross consists of two parts: (I) the Word and (II) the Meditation on the Cross. The service is highly meditative in nature and is celebrated simply and not hurried. The Service of the Cross is intended as the primary Good Friday service and historically has been observed sometime during the “hours of the cross,” between noon and three o’clock.

Join us tomorrow evening at 7:00 pm as we ponder the cross and worship the Savior enthroned there who has saved us from our sin.



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