

ENCHIRIDION.

Der Kleine
Catechismus.

Für die gemeine
Pfarherrn und
Prediger.

D. Mart. Luther.

Leipzig.

Welcome to worship at . . .

First Lutheran Church

Rev. William P. Schultz, Visiting Pastor

Curtis L. King, Organ

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 17, 2025

Announcements, Prelude, and Candlelighting

Call To Worship

L *The Lord is near you;*

C **On your lips and in your heart.**

L *If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,*

C **And believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

L *Faith comes from what is heard,*

C **And what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

Opening Hymn

"O Living Bread from Heaven"

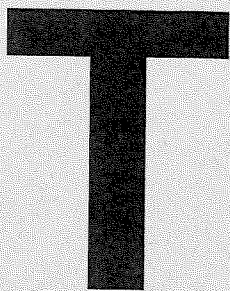
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The Prayer of the Day

A Maundy Thursday Reading Exodus 12:1-14

Silence

(go to insert)



A Special Liturgy on the Sacrament of Holy Communion

- L: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*
- C **Amen.**
- L: *What is holy communion?*
- C **Holy communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given with bread and wine, and instituted by Christ himself.**
- L: *Where do Scriptures say this?*
- C **Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul say: "In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread; and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you."**
- L: *"Do this in remembrance of me."*
- C **"Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."**
- L: *The bread which we break, is this not the communion of the body of Christ?*

L: *When is a person rightly prepared to receive this sacrament?*

C **Fasting and other outward preparations serve a good purpose. However, that person is well prepared and worthy who believes these words, "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."**

L: *But anyone who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is neither prepared nor worthy,*

C **For the words "for you" require only a believing heart.**

L: *Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.*

C **I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

L: *But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Lesson Luke 22:7-20

Theme Hymn

A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

Homily

Holy Communion: The Meal of Meeting

(return to bulletin cover after the homily)

C The cup of blessing which we bless, is this not the communion of the blood of Christ?

L: *What benefits do we receive from this sacrament?*

C This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

L: *The cup of blessing which we bless, is this not the communion of the blood of Christ?*

C The bread which we break, is this not the communion of the body of Christ?

L: *What benefits do we receive from this sacrament?*

C The benefits of the sacrament are pointed out by the words, "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

L: *These words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.*

C For where there is the forgiveness of sin, there is also life and salvation.

L: *Jesus said, I have come that you might have life,*

C And that you might have it abundantly.

L: *How can eating and drinking do such great things?*

C It is not the eating and drinking indeed that does this, but the words, "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

L: *These words, along with the eating and drinking, are the main focus of the sacrament.*

C Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.

L: *I know in whom I have believed,*

C And I am sure that he is able to keep what I have committed to him until that day.

Holy Communion is the gift of

Eating and Drinking

We eat food to grow. As we eat at the communion table, Jesus comes to us to help us grow stronger, wiser, and more loving.

Receiving Forgiveness

Jesus said, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is my blood which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." By inviting us to eat the sacrament Jesus assures us that his suffering and death were for us personally and for our forgiveness.

Giving Thanks

When we remember what Jesus has done for us, we can hardly help but thank him. We have nothing to give him in return but our thanks. One of the names for Communion is "Eucharist," which means "thanksgiving."

Celebrating

In Communion we celebrate the joy Jesus has brought and will continue to bring to our lives.

Being Together

That's really what "communion" means. We're together with Jesus in a mysterious but very real way. And we're together with the other followers of Jesus who receive the same gifts from him - like one big family.

Looking to the Future

Jesus often spoke of heaven as a great feast. As we enjoy this meal with him now, we look to the time we will be enjoying his presence forever in heaven.

Being Strengthened to Serve God

God doesn't give us gifts simply for our own personal enjoyment. He wants us to use them in helping others. When we go to communion, he strengthens us so that we may better serve other people for him.

Theme Hymn

In forms of water, bread, and wine,
My Lord now comes in mystery.
Through these I know salvation's mine;
A heav'nly home's my destiny.
"Come, take the bread and eat,
This wine also, and drink.
New Life it is my word.
The covenant restored.
This do all times remembering me."

God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Offerings & Music Offering

What Wondrous Love Is This - Bells of Praise

Prayer of the Church

The Celebration of Holy Communion

L *The Lord be with you*

C **And also with you.**

L *Lift up your hearts.*

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

L *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God*

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

L *It is indeed right, our duty . . . we praise your name and join
their unending hymn of praise:*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosana, Hosana in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

The Distribution

Post-Communion Blessing and Prayer

L *Let us go forth in peace.*

C **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Stripping of the Altar

*(Psalm 22 is chanted by Elijah Shiley during the stripping.)
(When stripping is finished, all leave the church in silence.)*

Why We Strip the Altar

The stripping of the altar is a symbolic action. The stripping of the altar proceeds in a deliberate, orderly, and unhurried fashion. As the items are removed from the altar, they are taken away from the chancel area. Finally the worship space is left in a semi-darkened condition, and all leave in silence. Thereby, the transition is made from the eucharistic celebration to Jesus' crucifixion and death.

Symbolically, Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors. No further words are said. There is no benediction, no dismissal, no postlude. Thus, in continuity with the service of Good Friday, the Maundy Thursday service begins a three-day vigil leading to the Easter announcement: "He is Risen!" It is all one extended service of worship and remembrance, and, at Easter dawn, the joyous celebration of the resurrection.