



PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

B R I E F O R D E R F O R CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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.

Most merciful God,
**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.**

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.
Amen.

GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior,
the reconciling love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray...

Holy God, source of all love,
on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment,
to love one another as he loves us.

Write this commandment in our hearts,
and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all,
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD OF GOD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

*T*his evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another.

Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.




FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1-14

THE PASSOVER OF THE LORD

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.

he Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,

²"This month will be the first month; it will be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole Israelite community: On the tenth day of this month they must take a lamb for each household, a lamb per house. ⁴If a household is too small for a lamb, it should share one with a neighbor nearby. You should divide the lamb in proportion to the number of people who will be eating it. ⁵Your lamb should be a flawless year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You should keep close watch over it until the fourteenth day of this month. At twilight on that day, the whole assembled Israelite community should slaughter their lambs. ⁷They should take some of the blood and smear it on the two doorposts and on the beam over the door of the houses in which they are eating. ⁸That same night they should eat the meat roasted over the fire. They should eat it along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Don't eat any

of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over fire with its head, legs, and internal organs. ¹⁰Don't let any of it remain until morning, and burn any of it left over in the morning. ¹¹This is how you should eat it. You should be dressed, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You should eat the meal in a hurry. It is the Passover of the Lord. ¹²I'll pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I'll strike down every oldest child in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I'll impose judgments on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³The blood will be your sign on the houses where you live. Whenever I see the blood, I'll pass over you. No plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

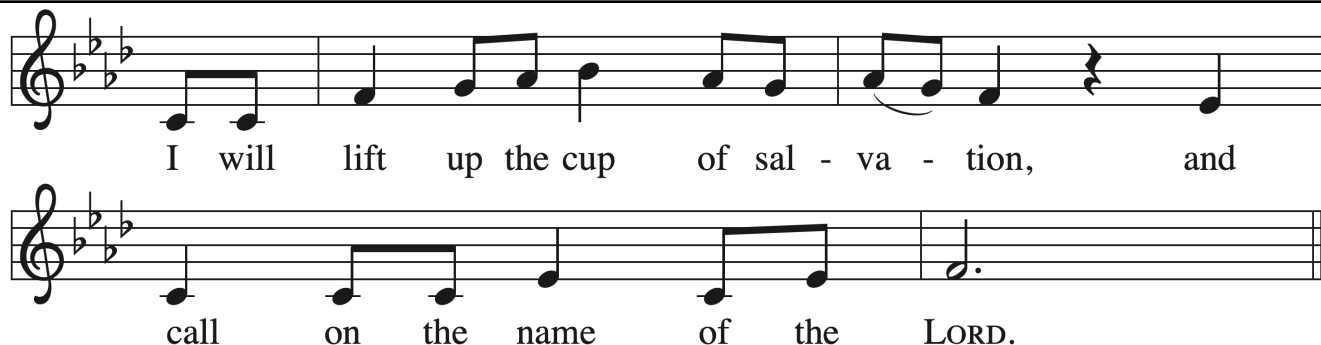
¹⁴"This day will be a day of remembering for you. You will observe it as a festival to the Lord. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time."

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

We respond to the story of the Passover meal with our thanksgiving song. In the words of Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, we join the ancient Israelites by lifting the cup of salvation, our sacrifice of thanksgiving, for we too have been freed from our bonds.



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

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

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

**¹³I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord. R**

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

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

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

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

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

**¹⁹in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you. O Jerusalem. R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

PROCLAIM THE LORD'S DEATH UNTIL HE COMES

In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.

I received a tradition from the Lord, which I also handed on to you: on the night on which he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread. ²⁴After giving thanks, he broke it and said,

***"This is my body, which is for you;
do this to remember me."***

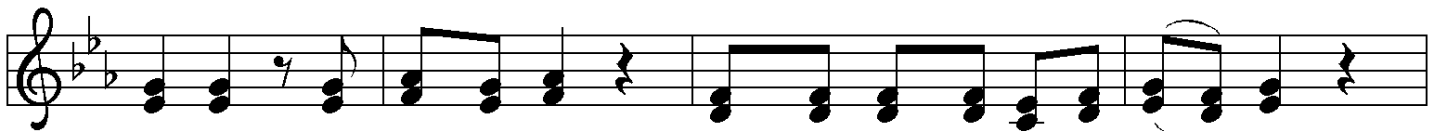
***"This cup is the new covenant in my
blood. Every time you drink it,
do this to remember me."***

²⁶Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you broadcast the death of the Lord until he comes.

²⁵He did the same thing with the cup, after they had eaten, saying,

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 13:1-17, 31-35

THE SERVICE OF CHRIST: FOOTWASHING AND MEAL

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one other.

Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully.

²Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. ⁴So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing. ⁶When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus replied,

"You don't understand what I'm doing now, but you will understand later."

⁸"No!" Peter said. "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus replied,

*"Unless I wash you,
you won't have a place with me."*

⁹Simon Peter said, "Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!"

¹⁰Jesus responded,

"Those who have bathed need only to have their feet washed, because they are completely clean. You disciples are clean, but not every one of you."

¹¹He knew who would betray him. That's why he said, "Not every one of you is clean."

¹²After he washed the disciples' feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them,

"Do you know what I've done for you? ¹³You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak correctly, because I am. ¹⁴If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. ¹⁵I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. ¹⁶I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷Since you know these things, you will be happy if you do them."

(Continued...)

³¹When Judas was gone, Jesus said,

*but, just as I told the Jewish leaders,
I also tell you now—*

*“Now the Son of Man has been glorified,
and God has been glorified in him. ³²If
God has been glorified in him, God will
also glorify the Son of Man in himself
and will glorify him immediately.*

‘Where I’m going, you can’t come.’

³³*Little children, I’m with you for a little
while longer. You will look for me—*

³⁴*“I give you a new commandment: Love
each other. Just as I have loved you, so
you also must love each other. ³⁵This is
how everyone will know that you are my
disciples, when you love each other.”*

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

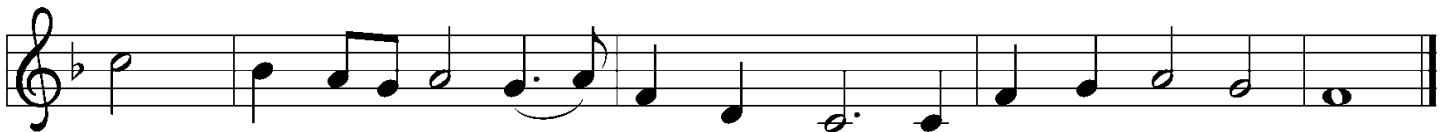
SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Where Charity and Love Abide”



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God’s char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God’s ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er’s faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ’s love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God’s the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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THE NICENE CREED

In the presence of God and one another, let us confirm our faith:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



rusting in Jesus who gave his life for the world, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God who kneels to wash our feet, gather your church around the world during this holy week. Humble the powerful and lift up any who are marginalized. Renew our faith and make us bold in service and love to our neighbors.

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

God who blesses the grain of the soil and the fruit of the vine, inspire in us a reverent care for the earth. Sustain fields, gardens, and wild places, that all people are fed and every living thing flourishes.

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

God whose greatest commandment is love, guide all who govern by the principle of love. Transform unjust human systems that oppress some for the gain of others. Restore communities as places of justice and concern for those who are vulnerable.

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

God who was betrayed, comfort people everywhere who have suffered abuse at the hands of someone they knew and trusted. Heal the bodies,

minds, and hearts of victims of exploitation. Help all in pain to know that you are near.

We pray especially for those on our prayer list, and for those who remain in our hearts forever.

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

God who sits at the table with us, grant the joy of your presence to people celebrating first communion today, and to all who share the meal. Strengthen communities of faith in grace and courage.

We pray especially for those on our prayer list, and for those who remain in our hearts forever.

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

God who brings new life out of death, we pray with thanks for the lives of those who have joined the communion of saints (*especially*). In our holy meal, connect us to the faithful who have gone before us, and nourish us as your people living today.

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.



Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ, our redeemer. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.

You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
transforming death into life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and 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.

God of our weary years,
 God of our silent tears,
 you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness
 you did not abandon us,
 but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age,
 you sent prophets to make known
 your loving will for all humanity.
 The cry of the poor
 has become your own cry;
 our hunger and thirst for justice
 is your own desire.

In the fullness of time,
 you sent your chosen servant
 to preach good news to the afflicted,
 to break bread with the outcast and despised,
 and to ransom those in bondage
 to prejudice and sin.

(Continued...)

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.
Do this for the remembrance of me."
 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."
For as often as we eat of this bread
 and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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.**



COMMUNION CANTICLE



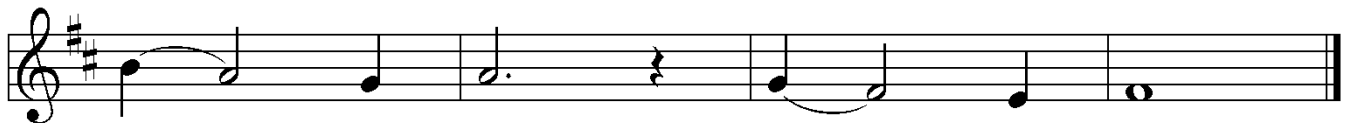
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Where charity and love abide, there is God.
Rejoice in the Holy Communion.

COMMUNION BLESSING

(After all have returned to their seats, the minister will say:)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.



POST-COMMUNION HYMN

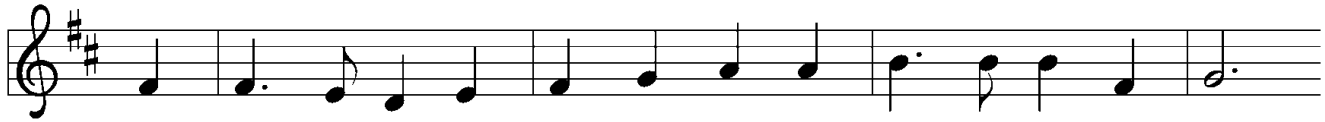
"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"



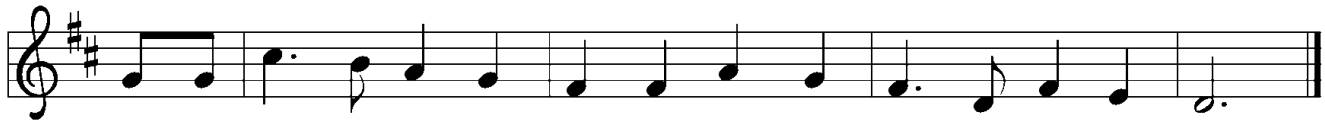
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869
Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:
may our fasting be hunger for justice,
our alms, a making of peace,
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

*The stripping of the altar is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the soldiers' hands.
After the altar is stripped, all may leave in silence.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray for our families and friends

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Added</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
Shirley Fallon Bower.....	07/23	Judy Nolan.....	2/24
John Coppola	∞	Dante Palmieri.....	∞
Shannon Martin Duh		Louise Palmieri	∞
Bret Francis.....	08/23	Dorothy Revis	9/23
Maribel Gill.....	∞	David Lee Ritchie.....	∞
June Gribbon	∞	Joedy Sheets	∞
Barry Hayes.....	∞	Diane Summerton (Family)	12/23
Jamie Kormos.....	4/23	Ray Wilson	∞
Jennifer Moore.....	7/23		

All names on this list will be kept for one year or until we are informed otherwise.

*To have a name added or removed, please contact the church office via phone or email,
or visit our website at www.ilutheran.net/pray.*

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