

HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY

April 9, 2020

Covenant Blood. We have access to God through Jesus' blood.

AS WE GATHER

Holy Thursday begins the great three days that commemorate how God accomplished our salvation in Jesus Christ. The first part of the service is confession and forgiveness, the culmination of the Lenten season of repentance. Holy Thursday then recalls two central events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. First is the Lord's Supper. The Gospel tells of the Holy Thursday night when, during the Passover meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is My body." He then took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My blood of the new covenant." The old covenant involved regular repeated animal sacrifice. This new covenant involves the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus' blood, which fulfilled the old covenant once for all. When we are able, we share this Meal in remembrance of Jesus' all-availing sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. The second central event recalled tonight is the abandonment of Jesus by all who loved Him. This is remembered by the action of stripping the altar while Psalm 22 is read. This reminder of how Jesus was forsaken also assures us that Jesus is with us at times when we feel isolated and forsaken.



+ PREPARATION +

PRE SERVICE MUSIC

Choir: "When You Woke That Thursday Morning" 445

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" 435

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
 Sinners, ruined by the fall;
 Here a pure and healing fountain
 Flows for you, for me, for all,
 In a full, perpetual tide,
 Opened when our Savior died.

Come in poverty and meanness,
 Come defiled, without, within;
 From infection and uncleanness,
 From the leprosy of sin,
 Wash your robes and make them white;
 Ye shall walk with God in light.

Come in sorrow and contrition,
 Wounded, impotent, and blind;
 Here the guilty, free remission,
 Here the troubled, peace may find.
 Health this fountain will restore;
 They that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever;
 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
 God is faithful; God will never
 Break His covenant of blood,
 Signed when our Redeemer died,
 Sealed when He was glorified.

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

+ WORD +

CONFESSION

Pastor: People of God, we struggle against sin, death, and the power of the devil. We have intensified the struggle begun at Baptism to daily die with Christ and also to rise daily in Christ to live anew. In this struggle we have been reminded again that we are weak and Christ is strong. We need the forgiveness of our sins in order to live as the people God has called us to be.

A time of silence is observed.

Pastor: Assured of God's love for us through our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sin against God and our neighbors, so that we enter these three days, so central to our faith, reconciled to God and to one another.

People: Most merciful God, 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. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

ABSOLUTION Psalm 103:11–13

Pastor: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Pastor: Today, Christians around the world observe Holy (Maundy) Thursday. On this day, before Jesus' journey to the cross, He and His disciples observed Passover. This was a significant time of remembrance and ritual to recall that the Lord passed over the land of Egypt, intending to strike down the firstborn in each household, yet graciously sparing the Israelites whose doorposts were marked with the blood of the Lamb. These were the instructions for the first Passover:

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON I Exodus 12:1-14 (The Passover)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: As we continue our Sermon Series in the Book of Zechariah we hear Zechariah speak of God's covenant of blood. It is a blood that brings hope and promise to people trapped in a waterless pit, who are stuck with no way out.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON II Zechariah 9:11-12

As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.
Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope;
even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Jesus ushers us into the presence of God. The heavy curtain of the Old Testament tabernacle and temple that separated man from God and God from man has been removed through the blood of Christ.

EPISTLE LESSON Hebrews 9:11–22 (Jesus is the high priest of the new covenant who gives His own blood, rather than the blood of animals, to secure eternal redemption.)

When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty sixth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 14:17-25

When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?"

"It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN "Not All the Blood of Beasts" 431

Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.

My faith would lay its hand
On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.

My soul looks back to see
The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursèd tree;
I know my guilt was there.

Believing, we rejoice
 To see the curse remove;
 We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
 And sing His bleeding love.

Text: Public domain

SERMON “Your Kingdom Come: Covenant Blood” Zechariah 9:11-12

HYMN “Glory Be to Jesus” 433

Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
 Poured for me the lifeblood From His sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
 Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
 Which from endless torment Did the world redeem!

Abel’s blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;
 But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
 Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
 Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

Text: Public domain

OFFERING

Online giving is being developed and will soon be available. Your faithful offerings will enable the ministry of Our Savior Lutheran Church to continue the Gospel outreach to our family and world. Please mail your weekly offerings to: Sherry Fickau, Financial Secretary, Our Savior Lutheran Church, 417 S Kane St, Burlington, WI 53105.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

On this holy night in which our Lord gathered His disciples in the Upper Room, we come to You, O Lord, in His name with the concerns of our hearts for ourselves and all people.

Brief silence

Grant to us zeal for Your house, O Lord, and love for the things of Your Kingdom. Preserve those who are unable to gather together as they wish, and grant them their desire quickly. Give Your Church harmony and peace to confess Your Word with one voice before the world. Cover us with the blood of Christ, and grant us Your Spirit, that we may walk in Your ways and do the good You desire. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, give to us faithful pastors who will preach Your Word in season and out, and give us ears and hearts willing to hear and heed Your voice. Raise up godly men to serve us as pastors, and raise up godly men and women to serve as teachers and in other offices for Your service. Bless those preparing for full-time church work in our colleges and seminaries as well as those considering church-work careers. Do not let the world's fears turn them from a faithful and devoted ministry. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from every temptation, and lead us to know and do what is holy and right according to Your Word and commands. Bless those preparing for Baptism and those being catechized into the faith, that they would be steadfast in faith in Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the midst of plagues and enemies that threaten and a world filled with conflict and terror, give us wise leaders, O Lord, that we may be preserved from harm. Guide those who make and administer our laws to act in timely and prudent ways, and give to all judges knowledge to render justice with mercy. Bless all military, emergency and medical workers who defend and help us here and abroad. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As generously as You have given to us, O Lord, teach us to be generous in giving, that the poor may not suffer want nor Your Church be deprived of the resources to serve Your purpose both here and across the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Have mercy, Lord, spare Your people and turn this pandemic away! Preserve the sick, comfort the fearful and grant to the dying Your peace. Give us healing in accordance with Your will, strength to bear up under the burdens of this mortal life, and comfort and hope in this and every trial. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Your Son instituted this most blessed Sacrament to eat and to drink, that what is promised in His testament may be truly received by His friends and heirs. Have mercy on all who are kept from Your table in these extraordinary circumstances, and do not shut them out of Your Supper forever. Let the words of this testament echo in their ears and hearts and, in true faith, let them believe these words, trusting that they receive spiritually in faith exactly what Your Son has both won and declared: the forgiveness of sins. Stir up in us a desire to commune with our fellow Christians on Your true body and blood, and bring us soon to the table. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You know, O Lord, what we need, and You have promised never to abandon us. Help us to endure in faith and, with a joyful countenance, receive the blessings of Your grace and the answers to our prayers; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: We have received God's gracious forgiveness and the peace that comes with it. It is time to share that peace with one another! The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

You may greet one another in the name of the Lord, by placing your hand on your heart saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

HYMN "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" 422

On my heart imprint Your image,
 Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
 That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
 Never may Your work erase;
 Let the clear inscription be:
 Jesus, crucified for me,
 Is my life, my hope's foundation,
 And my glory and salvation!

Text: Public domain

+ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR +

PSALM Psalm 22 (Why have You forsaken Me?)

Pastor: Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him," (John 13:31b) just after Judas had left to betray Him. Jesus, in His good time, washed the disciples' feet, inaugurated a new commandment to love one another, and instituted the Lord's Supper for the life of the Church; now the time for Jesus' death was drawing near. As we hear Psalm 22, which Jesus prayed and fulfilled on the cross, the altar is stripped, removing linens, paraments, ornaments, and candles from the chancel, symbolizing the abuse and abandonment our Lord endured in the hours that follow.

A Reading of Psalm 22

Choir: "A Coral Litany" by Carl F. Schalk

Our worship continues tomorrow April 10th with Good Friday Worship streamed live at 7:00pm.

Please go to www.oursaviorburlington.com

Easter Sunday will be live streamed and archived at 5:30pm, April 11th