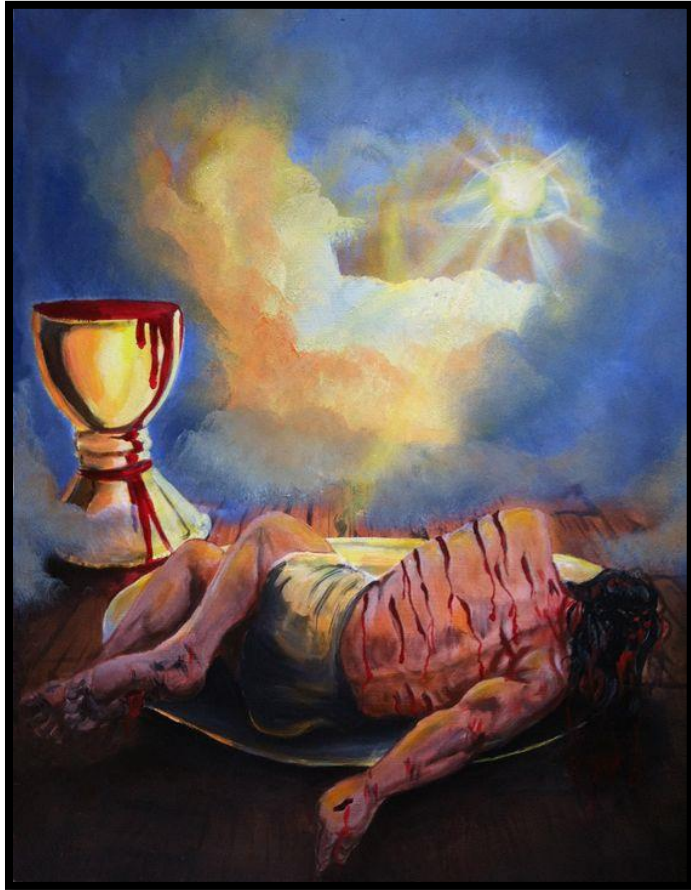


+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+MAUNDY THURSDAY+ 17 APRIL 2025+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgslcms.org

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning



1 When You woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior,
 2 Nev - er so a - lone and lone - ly, Long - ing
 3 What was there that You could give them That would
 4 One in faith, in love u - nit - ed, All one
 5 One day all the Church will cap - ture That bright



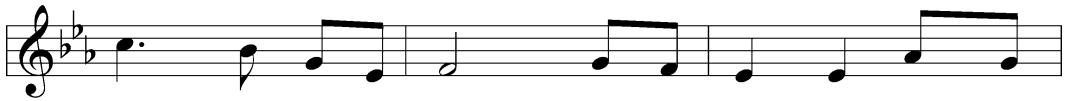
teach - er, faith - ful friend, Thoughts of self and safe - ty
 with tor - ment - ed heart To be with Your dear ones
 nev - er be out - spent, What great gift that would out -
 bod - y, You the head, When we meet, by You in -
 vi - sion glo - ri - ous, And Your saints will know the



scorn - ing, Know - ing how the day would end;
 on - ly For a qui - et hour a - part:
 live them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?
 vit - ed, You are with us, as You said.
 rap - ture That Your heart de - sired for us,



Lamb of God, fore - told for a - ges, Now at
 Sin - less Lamb and fall - en crea - ture, One last
 "Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me
 One with You and one an - oth - er In a
 When the longed - for peace and u - nion Of the



last the hour had come When but One could pay sin's
pas - chal meal to eat, One last les - son as their
as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance
u - ni - ty sub - lime, See in us Your sis - ter,
Great - est and the least Meet in joy - ous, blest com -



wa - ges: You as - sumed their dread - ful sum.
teach - er, Wash - ing Your dis - ci - ples' feet.
of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood."
broth - er, One in ev - 'ry place and time.
mu - nion In Your nev - er - end - ing feast.

Stand

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

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C 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

LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 67:1-3, 6b-7; antiphon: Galatians 6:14b; Liturgical Text

But far be it from | me to boast*
except in the cross of our Lord | Jesus Christ.
**In him is salvation, life, and resurrection | from the dead,*
by him we are redeemed and set at | liberty.**
May God be gracious to us and | bless us*
and make his face to shine up- | on us,
**that your way may be | known on earth,*
your saving power among all | nations.**
Let the peoples praise you, | O God;*
let all the peoples | praise you!
**God, our God, shall | bless us.*
God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth | fear him!**
But far be it from | me to boast*
except in the cross of our Lord | Jesus Christ.
**In him is salvation, life, and resurrection | from the dead,*
by him we are redeemed and set at | liberty.**



Kyrie

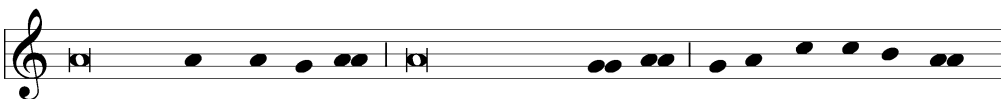
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



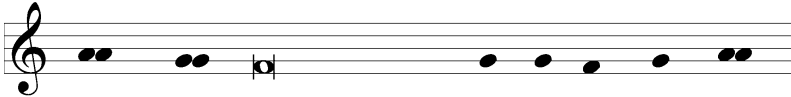
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Hymn

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
 2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
 3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
 4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!
 5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
 With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;
 It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;
 The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;
 The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
 They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -
 Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -
 The Mas - ter pays the debt His ser - vants
 Man for - feit - ed his life and is ac -



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
 cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.
 her - it, This I do mer - it.
 owe Him, Who would not know Him.
 quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text and tune: Public domain



Old Testament Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

P The Old Testament Reading for Maundy Thursday is from Exodus, chapter 12.

The Passover

¹The 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. ³Tell 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. ⁴And 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. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and 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. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In 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. ¹²For 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. ¹³The 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.

Psalm

Psalm 116:12-19; antiphon: v. 17

¹²What shall I render | to the LORD*
for all his bene- | fits to me?

¹³I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*
and call on the name | of the LORD,

¹⁴I will pay my vows | to the LORD*
in the presence of all his | people.

¹⁵**Precious in the sight | of the LORD*
is the death | of his saints.**

¹⁶O LORD, I am your | servant;*
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have | loosed my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will pay my vows | to the LORD*
in the presence of all his | people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the house | of the LORD,*
in your midst, O Jerusalem. | Praise the LORD!**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:23–32

P The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 11.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, **“This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”** ²⁵In 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.”** ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

²⁷Whoever, 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. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But 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

Hymn

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken



6 There was no spot in me by sin un - taint - ed;
 7 O won - drous love, whose depth no heart hath sound - ed,
 8 O might - y King, no time can dim Thy glo - ry!
 9 For vain - ly doth our hu - man wis - dom pon - der—
 10 Yet un - re - quit - ed, Lord, I would not leave Thee;



Sick with sin's poi - son, all my heart had faint - ed;
 That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves sur - round - ed!
 How shall I spread a - broad Thy won - drous sto - ry?
 Thy woes, Thy mer - cy, still tran - scend our won - der.
 I will re - nounce what - e'er doth vex or grieve Thee



My heav - y guilt to hell had well - nigh
 All world - ly plea - sures, heed - less, I was
 How shall I find some wor - thy gifts to
 Oh, how should I do aught that could de -
 And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most



brought me, Such woe it wrought me.
 try - ing While Thou wert dy - ing.
 prof - fer? What dare I of - fer?
 light Thee! Can I re - quite Thee?
 low - ly All fires un - ho - ly.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

Holy Gospel

Luke 22:7–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The Passover with the Disciples

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.” ⁹They said to him, “Where will you have us prepare it?” ¹⁰He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters ¹¹and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹²And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.” ¹³And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

Institution of the Lord’s Supper

¹⁴And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

**☩ 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.**

Sit



Hymn of the Day

439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken



11 But since my strength will nev - er - more suf - fice me
 12 I'll think up - on Thy mer - cy with - out ceas - ing,
 13 What - e'er of earth - ly good this life may grant me,
 14 But worth - less is my sac - ri - fice, I own it;
 15 And when, dear Lord, be - fore Thy throne in heav - en



To cru - ci - fy de - sires that still en - tice me,
 That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleas - ing;
 I'll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.
 Yet, Lord, for love's sake Thou wilt not dis - own it;
 To me the crown of joy at last is giv - en,



To all good deeds O let Thy Spir - it
 To do Thy will shall be my sole en -
 I shall not fear what foes can do to
 Thou wilt ac - cept my gift in Thy great
 Where sweet - est hymns Thy saints for - ev - er



win me And reign with - in me!
 deav - or Hence - forth for - ev - er.
 harm me Nor death a - larm me.
 meek - ness Nor shame my weak - ness.
 raise Thee, I, too, shall praise Thee.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "Lord, have mercy".

- In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- Lord, have mercy.

- P** For faith directed toward the self-offering of Christ, that built on His humble image, the Church would resist the allure of worldly power and her members pursue their own sacrificial callings, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the deliverance of our souls, which are precious in God's sight; and for confidence that Christ Himself prays with us, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** In gratitude for the new testament in Christ's blood, whose institution is celebrated this day among all peoples, that the world for which He died may know Him and His sacrifice, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For those who have requested our prayers, that God would grant relief to the suffering, comfort to the grieving and peace to the dying, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that we turn from our evil way and live. We come before You, although we have sinned and deserve only Your wrath; yet we flee to Your mercy in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who gave His body and His blood for our redemption. Lord, grant that we may ever thus believe and never waver. Grant that in such faith we may worthily come to Your altar to eat the very body and drink the true blood which Your Son has given for our redemption. In thanksgiving, we remember and proclaim the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we place our trust. Until His return, graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will

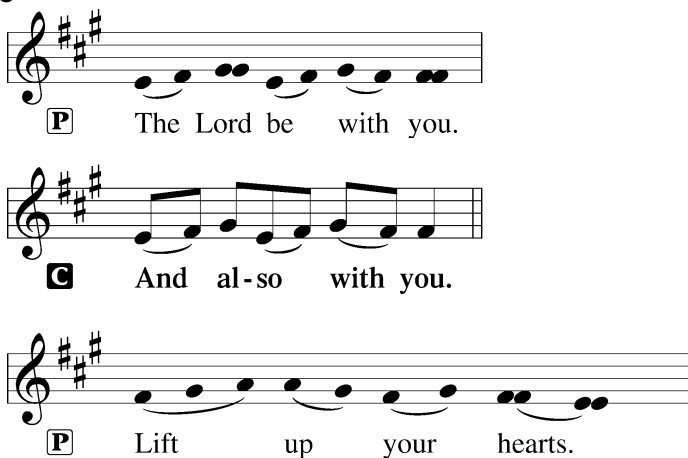


call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa-lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177



P The Lord be with you.
G And al-so 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 (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178



C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** 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."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

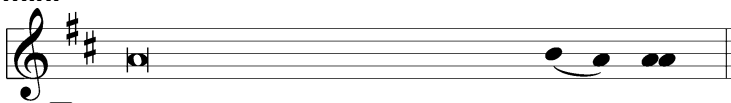
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**

Pax Domini

LSB 180



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C 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.

Sit

Distribution



Hymn of Invocation

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

sts. 1-3



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing

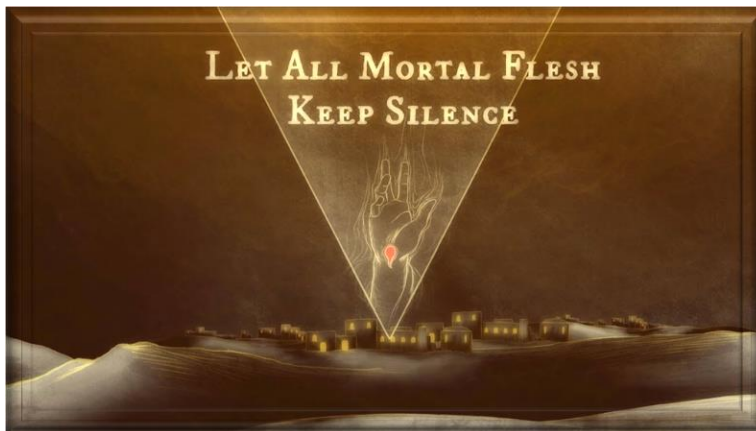


For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-85, alt.
Tune: French, 17th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain



Distribution Hymn

606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
 2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
 3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
 He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
 His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
 I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
 I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
 He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
 Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89

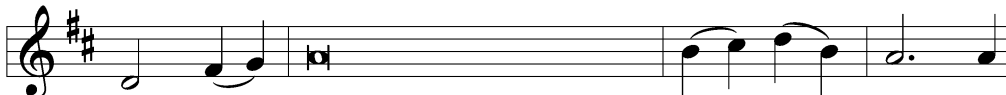
Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



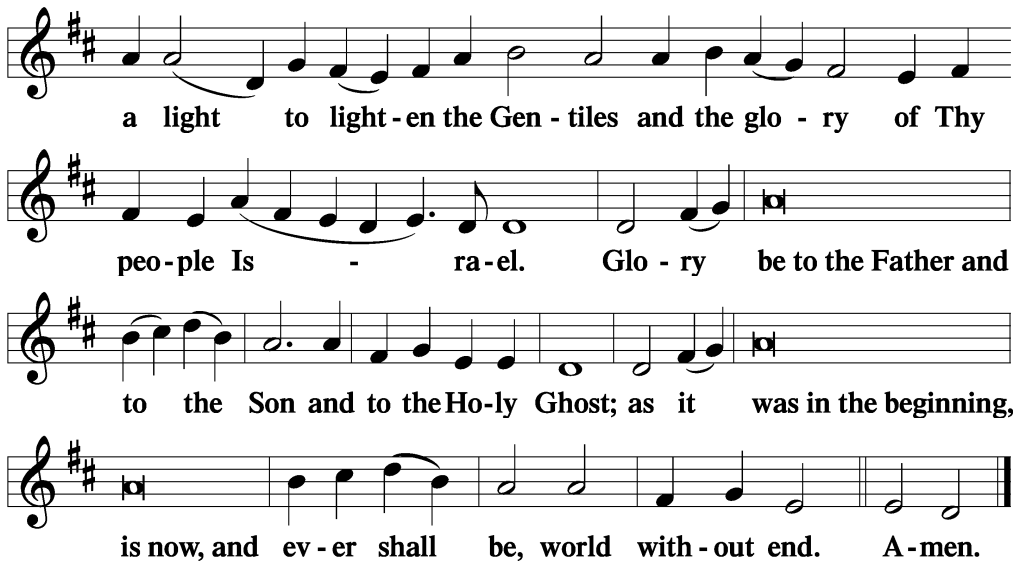
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

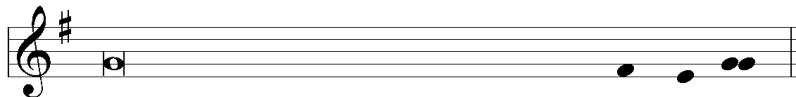
P Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 183



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



C A - men.

Hymn to Depart

436 Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar - raigned; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!
at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,
breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"
Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

When the final hymn has concluded, the Altar Guild will strip the altar.

Please remain silent during this time.

The altar is stripped in semblance of the humiliation and barrenness of the cross.

Acknowledgments

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Join us for Good Friday Service tomorrow evening at 7pm

Rejoice with us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord
Sunday, April 9th at 10am

A Snippet From 1517

“Holy Week With C.S. Lewis”

If the season of Lent is a journey, Holy Week is the destination.

Spring is almost here; you can feel it in the air. In my backyard I see the tulips and crocuses eagerly groaning with expectation. Before you know it, summer will be around the corner. Time for vacation. Kick the tires. Load up the car. Hit the lights. Shut the door. Head for the hills. And don't forget the kids. Because every five minutes for the next 8 hours you know that all you'll hear is, "Are we there yet?"

In a way, Holy Week is like a family road-trip. You've been on the road for 40 days. Ash Wednesday feels like ages ago; you're hungry from Lenten fast and ready for the Easter feast. You're road-weary and ready to go home. It's the home stretch. The whole church year has been one big procession, pointing us to the pilgrimage of the Christian life: a journey from Baptism to the grave, sustained by Christ's Supper, and looking forward to the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

C.S. Lewis was no stranger to a good sojourn. His usual method of transportation wasn't a family station wagon, however. Lewis preferred to take walking tours of the countryside, often with his good friends, staying at inns along the way, and enjoying the God's gifts of friendship, food, a warm fire, and good conversation. Again, Lewis's enjoyment of the journey is a good way to remember this season of Lent as we walk ever closer to Holy Week.

If the season of Lent is a journey, Holy Week is the destination. The donkey and her colt, the palm branches and hosannas all give way to the mystery and holiness of Jesus' Passover with his disciples, the shouts of "Crucify him; crucify him!" and Jesus' own journey to the cross.

Lewis's words are a helpful guide to our meditation on the terminus of our journey which is of course the saving work of Christ crucified and risen for you.

Maunder Thursday

In his book, *Letters to Malcom: Chiefly on Prayer*, Lewis wrestles with understanding the language of the Lord's Supper. He is imprecise and vague, yet honest at the same time. It's worth remembering that Lewis never claimed to be a theologian. At times, his open disclaimer shows as he struggles to find the right word, explanation, or understanding of

theology. And yet while Lewis doesn't give the reader a full sacramental theology in *Letters to Malcom*, he does give the reader something helpful when approaching the Lord's Supper concerning the mysterious and gracious center of Maundy Thursday.

Sometimes the simplest words are the best explanation. Lewis says that in his words of institution, Jesus gives us his divine hand of "strong magic." Jesus says exactly what he means to say and gives what he means to give: "this is my body...this is my blood given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Rather than look for a purely logical explanation to Jesus' words in giving the Lord's Supper to his disciples and the Church, Lewis rests his thinking and faith in the clear and simple words of Jesus while at the same time confessing the mystery of what Jesus is saying, giving, and doing in the Lord's Supper. How can ordinary bread and wine be Jesus' body and blood? Faith simply clings to Jesus' words that say this bread is his body and this cup of wine is his blood for our forgiveness; faith clings to the promise while confessing the mystery that here in the Lord's Supper, we receive heaven on earth. And while we may not be able to fully understand, as Lewis observes, we take Jesus at his word:

I find no difficulty in believing that the veil between the worlds, nowhere else (for me) so opaque to the intellect, is nowhere else so thin and permeable to divine operation. Here a hand from the hidden country touches not only my soul but my body. Here the prig, the don, the modern, in me have no privilege over the savage or the child. Here is big medicine and strong magic...the command, after all, was Take, eat: not Take, understand (*Letters to Malcom*)...

Sam P. Schuldheisz, 4/3/2023, 1517.org

