

Maundy Thursday Divine Service

April 17, 2025

This service for Maundy Thursday is the first service in the celebration of the holy three days of Christ's Passover, commonly known as the Triduum. It culminates the Lenten period of preparation for Christ's Passion and Resurrection and leads into His sacrifice on our behalf. As such, the service, like that for Good Friday, exhibits a mood of restrained joy. It consists of four parts: the Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution, the Service of the Word, the Service of the Sacrament, and the Stripping of the Altar.

The Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution signals the end of the Lenten preparations with the absolution and peace of Christ that stand at the center of the Three Days. The Service of the Word focuses upon Christ's love and service as He institutes a new covenant for His people, a servanthood enacted on the Cross and whose benefits are bestowed in the Lord's Supper. The service culminates with the Lord's ministry to His people through the Sacrament of the Altar.

The depth of Christ's servanthood is demonstrated as the altar is reverently stripped in preparation for the Church's observance of Jesus' death. In this service, the Church and her catechumens begin the journey through the three days of Christ's Passover from death to life and from captivity to freedom.

COMMUNION NOTES

Jesus' body and blood is for the forgiveness of sins. We celebrate this gift today as a community of LCMS members with the ancient Christian practice of close communion. Please speak with the Pastor or an Elder if you have not knelt with us at the Lord's Table before. ***If you are not communing, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your heart to indicate your desire for a blessing.***

Luther's questions and answers for those who intend to go to the sacrament are found on pages 329-330 of your hymnal. Prayers for before and after worship and communion are on the inside front cover.

Both the common cup and individual cups will be used today for the blood of our Lord. If you desire an individual cup, take it from the tray as it passes by you. If you prefer the common cup, do not take an individual cup and you will be communed with the common cup. If you are communing with the common cup, it is helpful if you grasp the base of the chalice to guide it to your lips.

Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution

HYMN #435

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

Stand

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: I will go to the altar of God.

C: To God, my exceeding joy. Psalm 43:4

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth. Psalm 124:8

Sit

Then the following CONFESSIOAL ADDRESS is read.

P: During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord’s call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other. Since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night when He instituted this blessed meal for our salvation, it is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently examining ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. This holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin, and who humbly confess their sins, fear God’s wrath and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sinful nature and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you.” It is as if He said, “I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat.”

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and 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.” Again, it is as if He said, “I have had mercy on you by taking upon Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink.”

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. As our Lord on this night exemplified this love by washing His disciples' feet, so we by our words and actions serve one another in love. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with wine of many grapes and one bread is made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C: Amen.

P: Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Stand

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C: Amen.

P: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C: Yes.

P: Let it be done for you as you believe.

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful;

Easter Sunday, 9:00 AM Our Lord's Resurrection with Communion