



# HOLY THURSDAY

April 17, 2025

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Today we will observe The Lord's Supper...** *The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

### PRELUDE

"A Lenten Prelude"  
"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

arr. J. Troutman  
setting: J. Kloppers

### WELCOME

*Stand*

### HYMN

"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

**LSB 915**



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.  
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in  
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;  
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,  
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.  
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.  
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,  
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;  
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.  
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.  
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt., Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857, Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- G** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 32:1, 5*

- P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- G** I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;
- P** I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- G** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us confess our transgressions and sins to the Lord, our God, in the presence of one another.
- G** **When we look into the mirror of Your perfect law, we are reminded that we are no better than our ancestors. We rebel against You like the Israelites on the way to the Promised Land. We are like King David, committing sins we think no one will know about. You know us. You know our transgressions and sins against You and one another. We humbly come to You seeking forgiveness. Sprinkle our hearts and make them clean. Forgive our sins by the**

**blood of Jesus that was given and shed for us. Renew a right spirit within us for Jesus' sake.**

- P** Blessed people of God, you have confessed your transgressions to the Lord. He forgives your iniquity and will remember your sin no more. 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.

## † SERVICE OF THE WORD †

### KYRIE

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
  
- P** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our hearts and with all our minds, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
  
- P** For the Holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
  
- P** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
  
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. Amen.

### SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
  
- P** Let us pray. Almighty and gracious God, You have given our country a precious

gift—the gift of freedom. As we celebrate that gift from You today, help us, by Your Holy Spirit, to remember the greater gift of freedom in the cross and empty tomb of Jesus, who gives us freedom now and eternally, with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, one Lord, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Jeremiah 31:31–34*

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**SR CHOIR:**

" Who is the Lamb?"

L. Larson

Who is the Lamb who sleeps in stable warm?

Who is the Lamb, secure in Mary's arm?

Who is the Lamb whom heav'n-Ly angels charm?

Who is the Lamb?

Who is the Lamb who preaches In the field?

Who is the Lamb, the Lamb the Blind and sick to heal?

Who is the Lamb for us His life To yield? Who is the Lamb?

The Promised One, the sinless Son; His death is our salvation Won.

Who is the Lamb who comes down heav-en's path?

Who is the Lamb? A cross is on His back!

Who is the Lamb who groans And breathes His last?

Who is the Lamb?

Behold the Lamb of God who Takes away the sins of the World!  
Behold the Lamb of God!

## PSALM

*Psalm 116:12–19; antiphon: v. 17*

- A** I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.
- C** What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.
- A** Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints. O LORD, I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.
- C** I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!
- A** I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

## EPISTLE

*Romans 7:7–25*

What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing

good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**VERSE**

*Luke 20:17b*

**A** Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Luke 22:7-20*

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

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" He 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 and 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?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a

cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And 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." And 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.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

**HYMN**

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

**LSB 575**



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'  
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on  
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me  
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my  
 His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and  
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly  
 then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!



*Refrain*  
 On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt., Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901, Text and tune: Public domain

**SERMON**

## 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.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, on this night we remember how You rescued Your people from slavery in Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. We are reminded of how You have rescued us from slavery to sin and are bringing us to Your heavenly kingdom.

Nourish our faith and lead us to walk in Your ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** Heavenly Father, You made covenants with Your people throughout the centuries. Yet, in these last days, You have made a new covenant with us through Your Son. Make this covenant known among us and all peoples of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Lord Jesus, You humbled Yourself and took on the role of a servant when You washed Your disciples' feet. You commanded them to love one another just as You loved them. Lead us to love others as You have first loved us. Stir us up to love and good works. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** Holy Lord, as we come to Your Table, forgive our sins through Your body and blood and wrap us in the robe of Your righteousness that covers all our sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things; redeem us, O Lord, faithful God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## OFFERING

## VOLUNTARY

"The Upper Room"

J. Southridge

## OFFERTORY



**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

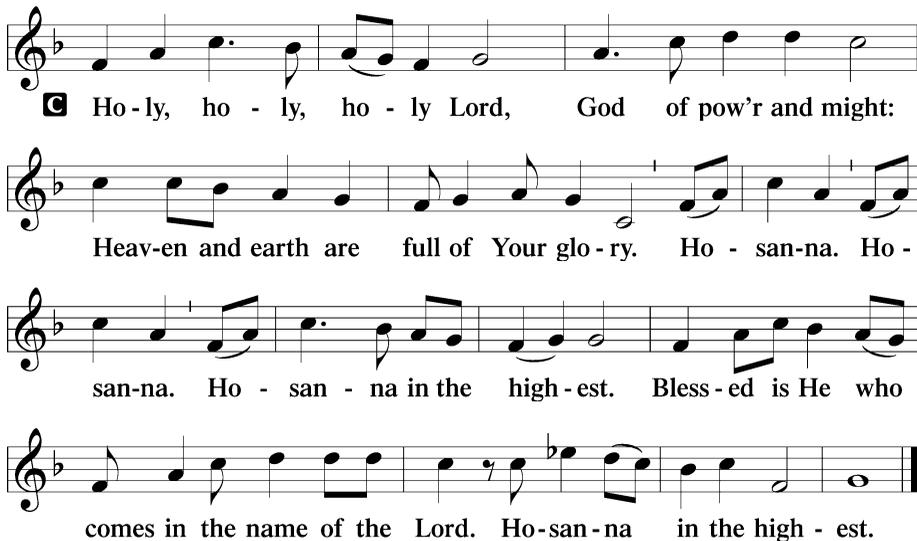
- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, our God, King of the universe, for You made a covenant with Your people, Israel, when You rescued them from Egypt. In these last days, You sent Your Son to be the mediator of a new covenant, sealing it with His precious blood, which is given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

LSB 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of creation, for You made a new covenant with Your people in these last days wherein You promise to remember our sins and lawless deeds no more because of the blood of Jesus, our great priest.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us the ability to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

- C** Amen.

## 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>C</b> <b>Our Father who art in heaven,<br/>hallowed be Thy name,<br/>Thy kingdom come,<br/>Thy will be done on earth<br/>as it is in heaven;<br/>give us this day our daily bread;<br/>and forgive us our trespasses</b> | <b>as we forgive those<br/>who trespass against us;<br/>and lead us not into temptation,<br/>but deliver us from evil.<br/>For Thine is the kingdom<br/>and the power and the glory<br/>forever and ever. Amen.</b> |
|---|---|

## PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

**☐** 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.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

LSB 618

1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and  
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners  
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I  
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my  
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's

wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -  
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in  
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt  
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -  
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of

lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:  
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.  
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:  
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.  
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.



*Refrain*

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

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**VOLUNTARY**

"I Come, O Savior to Your Table"  
"O Divine Redeemer"

arr. K. Kosche  
R. Thygerson

*Stand*

**NUNC DIMITTIS**

LSB 165



Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- 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** Amen.

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

- P** After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane; betrayal by Judas; arrest, mock trial, painful beating; the trudge to Golgotha and execution.

Jesus' offered body and His shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the bread and wine in the sacred mystery that is the Sacrament. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

Communion vessels are removed.

- P** The cross is where Jesus took on our punishment to be able to give us the gift of heaven. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). As this statement was fulfilled on the cross, the cross is removed from the altar area.

The cross is removed.

- P** The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand and its book.

The missal stand and altar book are removed.

- P** Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). The events at Golgotha snuffed

out the human life of Jesus, the light of the world. As creation was dark while He suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

All candles are extinguished and removed.

- ▣ Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

The offerings are removed.

- ▣ The altar is the place where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and Meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade, materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

The altar cloths and paraments are removed.

*All may exit silently.*

## **Acknowledgements**

*Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.*

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**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

1600 Old Trolley Rd  
Summerville, SC  
29485-8275