



***Eat and drink
for
the forgiveness of sins.***

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WELCOME! The Thursday of Holy Week, called “Holy Thursday” or “Maundy Thursday” (from the Latin and French for Jesus’s “mandates” or “commands” in connection with His Holy Supper), begins the observance of the three holy days of Christ’s Passover, commonly known as the Triduum (Latin for “three days”). The service on Holy (Maundy) Thursday culminates the Lenten period of preparation for Christ’s Passion and Resurrection and leads into His sacrifice on our behalf. As such, the service exhibits a mood of restrained joy. The order of service is simplified; various aspects of the usual Divine Service are customarily omitted.

AS YOU ARRIVE, please move down the pew towards the wall, in order to leave room for others. If you arrive late, please wait for an appropriate time to enter the sanctuary, such as during a hymn. Please also remember to turn off your cell phones and/or any other electronic devices. Thank you!

ORDER OF SERVICE: To your right you will find today's order of service. The right side of that outline indicates from where the item listed comes: either the Insert in this bulletin or the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, with the Psalms towards the front, its liturgical pages towards the middle, and its hymns towards the back.

HOLY COMMUNION: At Pilgrim we value your presence among us and love and care about our guests and visitors! However, due to the sad divisions that exist in the world and even in Christianity, we cannot commune everyone at the Lord's Table here. We respectfully ask that guests and visitors who desire to commune first speak with the pastor well before the service. All those present but not communing still may approach the rail for a blessing: come forward and kneel with those who are communing, but fold your arms over your heart and place your hands on the opposite shoulders. For more information about the ancient practice of Closed Communion, see <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/closed-communion>.

INDIVIDUAL CUPS: The top of the tray contains several individual cups of highly-diluted wine. If you receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please be sure to wait to consume it until Pastor comes by with the chalice, so that he knows you are receiving it in that fashion. If the supply of individual cups is depleted, please accept the blood of Christ from the chalice.

HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY

2026 APRIL 02

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE (*Lutheran Service Book*, pp.151-166)

There are four parts to the service. The Preparation of Corporate Confession ends the Lenten preparation with the peace of Christ that stands at the center of the Three Days. The Service of the Word focuses on Christ's sacrificial service fulfilling the Old Testament Passover, culminating with the Lord's ministry to His people through the Service of the Sacrament of the Altar. The depth of Christ's servanthood is demonstrated in the reverent Stripping of the Altar in preparation for the Church's observance of Jesus's death on Good Friday.

+++ IN THE NAME OF JESUS +++

PREPARATION OF CORPORATE CONFESSION

Stand

Invocation

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

Prayer

- P** Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer.
- C** **Amen.**

Psalm 130 (antiphon v.4)

130

(Speak the Psalm responsively. The congregation speaks the indented portions.
The *Gloria Patri* is omitted during Holy Week.)

Sit

Confessional Address/Exhortation

- C** **Amen.**

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

Stand/Kneel

Confession and Declaration of Grace

- P** Now I ask you before God, Who searches the heart:
Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?
- C** **I do confess.**

P Truly, you should so confess; for Holy Scripture declares: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1 John 3:1

Do you heartily repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

C **I do repent.**

P Truly, you should so repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others.

Psalms 51:17; Matthew 26:75; Luke 7:36-50; 15:17-21

Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus's sake, will forgive you all your sins?

C **I do believe.**

P Truly, you should so believe, for Holy Scripture declares: "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will henceforth amend your sinful life?

C **I do promise.**

P Truly, you should so promise, for Christ the Lord, says: "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

C **I do believe.**

P As you believe, even so may it be done unto you.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and I encourage you to come to me privately, in order for me, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, to forgive you individually of all your sins, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.


John 20:19-23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

| | |
|--|---|
| Salutation and Collect of the Day | 156 |
| Old Testament (& Response): Exodus 24:3-11 | 156 |
| Psalms 116:12-19 (antiphon: v. 17) |  116 |
| (Sing the Psalm responsively using the tone provided. The congregation sings the indented and bold portions of the text. The <i>Gloria Patri</i> is omitted during Holy Week.) | |
| Epistle (& Response): Hebrews 9:11-22 | 156 |
| Alleluia and Verse: Lent | 157 |
| Holy Gospel (& Responses): Matthew 26:17-30 | 157 |
| Hymn of the Day: "O Lord, We Praise Thee" | 617 |
| Sermon: "Eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins" Matthew 26:17-30 | |
| Nicene Creed | 158 |
| Prayer of the Church, Offering, & Offertory | 159-160 |
| (Offerings placed in the Box in the Narthex before the Service are brought forward here.) | |

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

| | |
|--|------------|
| Preface, Sanctus, Prayer of Thanksgiving, (left column) | 160-163 |
| The Words of our Lord, Proclamation of Christ, (Prayer of Remembrance,) Lord's Prayer, Pax Domini, & Agnus Dei | |
| Distribution (& Distribution Hymns): | 164 |
| "Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling" (stanzas 1-4) | 630 |
| "Not All the Blood of Beasts" | 431 |
| "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" | 575 |

Stand

The Post-Communion Collect is prayed.

C **Amen.**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Sit

Psalms 22 (chanted by the pastor as the altar is stripped)

The words of the Psalm are Christ's. The stripping of the altar symbolizes Christ, stripped of His power and glory, left in the hands of His captors. This stripping prepares us for the solemn service of Good Friday. Since this service in a sense continues on Good Friday, there is no benediction. When the Psalm is ended, all will please leave the church silently.

+++ TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY +++

SERVING US TONIGHT: The Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor;
Jeromy McMurray, Elder on Duty; Carl Gardner, Additional Altar Stripper; and
Elaine Navaille, Accompanist.

ALL ARE INVITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

Good Friday Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Activities and Service:

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Egg Hunt

9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class ("Easter Essentials")

10:45 a.m. Divine Service.