

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 5, 2012

Maundy Thursday ushers the believer into the “Three Holy Days” of Christendom. It is more than history that is celebrated today. The Holy Sacrament extends to the believer the very body and blood of our Savior and gives the forgiveness of sins.



STAND

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

To underscore the end of the Lenten time of preparation, the sermon is placed at the beginning of the service. When placed here, the proclamation of the “new command” in the sermon provides (both by its placement and content) a powerful preamble to the Instruction for the End of Lent and the confession that follows.

SERMON

A Meal For The Wounded

Exodus 24:3-11

When Moses went and told the people all the LORD’s words and laws, they responded with one voice, “Everything the LORD has said we will do.” Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.”

Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

INSTRUCTION FOR THE END OF LENT

M: In this Lenten season, we have heard our Lord’s call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil – all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were committed at baptism; God’s forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

With the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the Absolution we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt,

but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant.

It is, however, in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of himself and participate in that new covenant that makes us one in him. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

STAND

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. In what I have done and left undone, I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

I am truly sorry for my sins.

I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

Silence for meditation

M: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us.

C: Cleanse me from my sins.

Release me from my guilt.

Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Our Lord, who has forgiven us and reconciled us to God through Christ our Lord, has also promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Therefore, let us be reconciled with one another and extend to each other the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Brothers and sisters, I forgive you just as in Christ, God has forgiven me. May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD (sung)

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take away our sins; you comfort our spirit; you make us pure and holy in your sight. You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us; you made your Father known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on the cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:33-34

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD.

"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,"

declares the LORD.

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 116 (page 56 of CWS)

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:15-25

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

"This is the covenant I will make with them
after that time, says the Lord.

I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds. "

Then he adds:

"Their sins and lawless acts
I will remember no more. "

And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

VERSE OF THE DAY

As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 22:7-20

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."

They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

C: (sung) Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior” CW 313

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

STAND

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

M: In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the president of our synod, for the president of our district, for all pastors and teachers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For those who do not yet believe and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For a blessing on human labor and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart and show forth your glory in all we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For ourselves, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and all our lives to Christ our God.

C: Amen.

© Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by Permission.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: (sung) **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: (sung) **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: (sung) **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: (sung) **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory. You are my God and I will exalt you. I will give you thanks for you have become my salvation. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus, Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: (sung) **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. Amen.**

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. All WELS members are welcome to commune with us.

HYMNS “Jesus Took the Cup”	Grades 3-4 (11:00 a.m.)
“How Beautiful”	Choir (7:30 p.m.)
“The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord”	Hymn 135
“What Bread Is This?”	Hymn 742

THANKSGIVING

STAND

THANK THE LORD (sung)

C: **Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev’ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

M: Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son, may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) **Amen.**

BE SEATED

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The post-Communion moves liturgically from the upper room in Jerusalem to Gethsemane's Garden in preparation for Good Friday. The altar, which represents the presence of Christ, becomes the focus. After the Communion table has been cleared to the sacristy, the altar is solemnly stripped of its vestments and appointments in token of the abandonment of Jesus in Gethsemane. The liturgy ends in silence; the congregation hears no benediction . . . yet. Rather, the Three Holy Days' services flow into one another as the congregation disperses in silence to reassemble on Good Friday.

Hymn: *"What Wondrous Love is This" Hymn 120*
During the anthem the Communion vessels and linens are removed to sacristy

PSALM 22 (page 71 of CW)
During the psalm the altar is solemnly stripped. Psalm 22 leads us into the worship of Good Friday, where we see our Savior forsaken on the cross.

The Psalm ends, the pastor exits the chancel, and the congregation disperses quietly into the night. The service concludes with no blessing or postlude because Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are one continuous service of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection.

If it is possible and convenient to you, please return the service folder to the stands by the doors in the rear of church as you leave. They will be used Friday and Sunday and may be taken home Sunday.

The Three Holy Days Worship continues on Good Friday. "Service of the Cross of Christ" will be at 11:00 a.m. Tenebrae worship will be at 7:30 p.m. Both services will have communion.