From the Passover to the Garden

AS WE GATHER

Holy Thursday, the night Jesus was betrayed, began with the disciples celebrating the Passover. Here, Jesus washed His disciples’ feet, telling them to love one another, just as He loved them. He took a cup, gave it to His disciples to drink, and commanded them to remember Him by doing likewise. Then we go to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He was betrayed and arrested. On this day we remember the commands of Jesus and celebrate His coming to us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.
INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

✝ WORD ✝

INTRODUCTION

Pastor: This night we know as “the night Jesus was betrayed” began with a meal. Faithful to all that had been written, Jesus and His disciples would observe the customary Passover meal that was instituted centuries before, prior to the Lord leading and delivering His people out of slavery in Egypt and observed by the faithful each year following.
The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire--head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover. "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn--both men and animals--and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD--a lasting ordinance. “

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “When You Woke That Thursday Morning” Verse 1 LSB 445

READING: Exodus 24:1-11
(The Covenant is sealed in blood.)

Then he said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him.”

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 splashed 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.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “When You Woke That Thursday Morning” Verse 2 LSB 445

READING: Romans 5:1-10
(Christ died for the wicked and the helpless.)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who he has given us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: Thanks be to God.

READING: Matthew 26:26–30
(Jesus gives His body and His blood.)

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." When they had sung a hymn,
they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “When You Woke That Thursday Morning” Verse 3 LSB 445

PRAYERS

Pastor: Father, on the night when He was betrayed, Christ Jesus humbled Himself to stoop down and bathe His disciples’ feet, even the feet of the one who would betray Him. Grant us the fervent desire to embody this attitude of service and kindness to all that the love of Christ may abound through all our speech and actions. Hear our prayer and

People: humble us, O Lord.

Pastor: On this night, Christ prayed that His disciples would be one in faith. He prayed for those who would hear His disciples’ proclamation, that all would come to know that You sent Him into the world to be the light of the world. Just as Christ encouraged others to boldly proclaim the message of salvation, so also hear our prayer and

People: renew our witness, O Lord.

Pastor: On this night, Christ acknowledged the world’s hatred and persecution of those who confess Him as Lord and Savior. Heavenly Father, fix our eyes constantly on Jesus, that we may remain steadfast in the midst of strife and harassment. Hear our prayer and

People: grant us Your peace.

Pastor: On this night, Your Son and our Savior gave us His last will and testament, giving us His true body and blood that we receive Him for the forgiveness of sins and nourishment of faith. Give us truly penitent hearts that we receive this Sacrament worthily. Cleanse us and feed us with the precious body and blood of Your Son, that we live godly lives and boldly resound with the one true confession of faith with the whole company of saints, in heaven and on earth.

People: Amen.

READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23–32
(Instruction for the Lord’s Supper)

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood
of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

Lector:    O Lord, have mercy on us.
People:    Thanks be to God.

HYMN    “As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered” LSB 612

SERMON    “Access!” Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Exodus 24:1-11

OFFERING    “Arioso” J.S. Bach
Ann Westra, flute

NICENE CREED

People:    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.

CATECHISM RESPONSE    The Sacrament of the Altar

Pastor:    What is the Sacrament of the Altar?
People:    It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.
Pastor: Where is this written?

People: The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: 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.”

Pastor: What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

People: These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Pastor: How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

People: Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

Pastor: Who receives this Sacrament worthily?

People: Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins in thought, word, and deed with which I have offended You. Although I justly deserve Your punishment in time and eternity, I am truly sorry for them and sincerely repent of them. In Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, forgive me all my sins, and direct me to walk in Your loving ways.

Pastor: 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.
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.

People: Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION**

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

**SACRAMENT**

**PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
2 Timothy 4:22

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
Colossians 3:1

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
Psalm 136

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: 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 all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

People: Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith, and above all believe the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness.

Holy Communion
Pastor: By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love He gave to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell.

People: Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, testament, and pledge of His salvation. Amen.


Pastor: 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.”

LORD’S PRAYER (In the back cover of the Hymnal)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

People: And also with you.

HYMN “When You Woke That Thursday Morning” Verses 4-5 LSB 445
DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“Amazing Grace”
arr. Bill Wolver
Diana Gaide, pianist

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”
arr. J.P. Kirnberger
Ann Westra, flute

“The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord”
Verses 1-5

“Let Us Break Bread Together” (Organ) Gordon Young

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.
      Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You that we have received Your body and blood in this Sacrament. Through Your life laid down for us, You have given us new life. Strengthen us in faith and in loving service to You and others through Your presence. In Your name we pray.

People: Amen.
Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour--when darkness reigns."

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: Thanks be to God.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR John 13:31

Pastor: Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him" just after Judas had left to betray Him. Jesus, in His good time, washed the disciples' feet, inaugurated a new commandment to love one another, and observing the Passover, instituted a new Meal in the Lord’s Supper for the life of the Church. After Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, the time for His death was drawing near.

During the closing hymn, the altar is stripped as a symbol of the abandonment our Lord endured in the hours that would follow and a reminder of how Jesus was stripped of His clothes and ultimately His life, in payment for our sins. No benediction concludes this service as an indication that the worshipful reflection continues for three more days.

HYMN "No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet" LSB 444

POSTLUDE "No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet" Michael Burkhardt
After a moment of silent prayer, Pastor will exit the chancel. Worshippers may then either stay for prayer or leave quietly in the darkness. As part of our Holy Week worship life, we observe, in part, an ancient custom of the early Christian Church. Beginning with the evening worship on Maundy Thursday and continuing through Holy Saturday’s Easter Vigil, these services were considered to be one service and called the Triduum (The Three Days). Even though people go home to rest and carry out their necessary responsibilities, they are encouraged to remember that at least in spirit, they are still "worshiping" and remembering the events of Holy Week. No benediction concludes this service as an indication that the service continues for two more days. The name Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means commandment. It is taken from Jesus' words to the disciples in John 13:34: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." Tonight, we remember the first Passover meal and celebrate the meal that was given to us when Jesus celebrated Passover---on the night when He was betrayed. There is no benediction or organ voluntary, reminding us that Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are one continuous worship service, focusing on the central events of our salvation. There is an integral unity between Christ offering his Body and Blood in the Sacrament, and the offering of his life on the cross.

**Serving in Worship**

**OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT**

The Rev. John R. Larson, Pastor

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**

Michael Zehnder

**ELDER**

Roger Gaide

**PIANIST**

Diana Gaide

**BELLS**

Gloria Dei Handbell Ringers

**ACOLYTE**

Cody Urbach

CCLI License #1903595