

The Holy Week of Our Lord's Passion

Maundy Thursday

April 14, 2022

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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What is a holy week?

“Holiday” is simply short for “holy day.” Throughout the course of a year, there are certain days we set apart as special: to commemorate extraordinary events, to celebrate influential individuals. While there are many holy days, there is but one holy week. The final week of Lent marks the most pivotal week in human history. In the four gospels—biographies of Jesus Christ’s thirty-three-year life—this single week consumes nearly a third of the ink. The Holy Spirit considered the events of this week that important. On a holy day, the relentless march of time slows down. We set aside our usual routines to call attention to whatever or whoever makes that day special. Likewise, believers slow down this entire week to ponder all that Christ did for them, from his humble entrance into Jerusalem... to his sacrificial death on the cross... to the victory of Easter morning.

What is Maundy Thursday?

As the sun set on Maundy Thursday, the day marked the end of something old and the start of something new. The Old Testament (or Covenant), which God had established through Moses, was two-sided. God’s people would follow God’s commands; God would bless his people. However, rather than providing God’s people the opportunity to live up to God’s demands, the Old Testament only exposed their flaws. When God established his New Testament (or Covenant), it was not a two-sided contract. It was more like a last will and testament, listing all the blessings God promised graciously to give his people. No matter who you are or what you have done, the blessing of the New Testament are “for you.” Eat the food Christ offers, and all your spiritual and eternal needs are satisfied.

OPENING HYMN

Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle | 419

SERMON

INSTRUCTION FOR THE END OF LENT

In this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. 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.

Within 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 will not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus 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.

In Holy Communion 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 his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

Please stand.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you
that I have not loved you with all my heart.
In what I have done and left undone,
I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.
I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.
For this I deserve your punishment
both now and in eternity.
I am sorry for my sins.
I repent of them.
I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives 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.

Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, be reconciled with one another.

**May the peace of Christ
rule in our hearts,
in our words,
and in our actions.**

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 12:21-27

The Old Testament Passover Lamb pointed ahead to the deliverance the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, would secure for us with his blood.

²¹Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and take lambs for yourselves according to your family size, and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²²You shall take a bundle of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and paint the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you are to go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³When the LORD passes through to strike Egypt and sees the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

²⁴“You shall observe these instructions as a perpetual regulation for you and your descendants. ²⁵When you enter the land that the LORD will give you just as he said he would, you shall observe this ceremony. ²⁶So when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ ²⁷you will say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Passover to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. When he struck the Egyptians, he spared our houses.’” The people bowed down and worshipped.

PSALM*The Shadow of the Almighty | 91*

Soloist introduces refrain; congregation repeats the refrain and joins in the rest of the refrains; soloist sings the verses. The Gloria Patri is omitted.

FIRST LESSON (continued)

Exodus 12:28-30

²⁸The Israelites went and did all this. They did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron. ²⁹At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon, even all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰During the night Pharaoh got up—he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians—and there was a loud outcry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not someone dead.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!**SECOND LESSON**

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Christ binds us together in a blessed fellowship with himself and one another as we receive his true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine.

¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!**CONFESSION OF FAITH***Catechism: Holy Communion | 293**Please stand.***GOSPEL**

Mark 14:12-26

During the last true Passover celebration, Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper to strengthen his New Testament church until he comes again in glory.

¹²On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, ‘Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

¹⁶His disciples left and went into the city and found things just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷When it was evening, he arrived with the Twelve.

¹⁸While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Amen I tell you: One of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”

¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and said to him one by one, “Surely not I?”

²⁰He said to them, “It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me in the dish. ²¹Indeed, the Son of Man is going to go just as it has been written about him,

but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

²²While they were eating, Jesus took bread. When he had blessed it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “Take it. This is my body.” ²³Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them. They all drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, “This is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Amen I tell you: I will certainly not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” ²⁶After they sang a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior | 659
The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord | 677

CLOSING PRAYER

HYMN

O Lord, We Praise You | 673



Pastor: Rev. Luke Boehringer
Organist: Mr. David Koepsell

The special Maundy Thursday bulletin covers are given to the glory of God by Ken & Jo Wendorff in memory of their daughter Laurie, with Praise to Jesus.

We gather together tomorrow, Good Friday.