Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Maundy Thursday

"Take and eat, this is my body. Take and drink, this is my blood of the new testament. Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sin."

-Words of Institution

In our congregation we follow the historic Lutheran practice of closed communion. This is nothing new, nor a novel innovation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Rather, for many centuries, this was the universal practice of all of Christendom, and to this day, is still practiced by the majority of the Christian Church.

- *We observe closed communion because the Lord's Supper is a public profession of our unity of faith. (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)*
- *We believe Christ's body and blood are truly present in the bread and the wine for forgiveness of our sins. (1 Corinthians 11:23-25)*
- *We observe closed communion to protect people in body and soul from taking the Lord's Supper to their judgment and harm. (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)*

Our practice is prompted by our love, care, and concern for all people. If you are not a confirmed member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please do not commune today. However, please know that we look forward to having you at the Lord's Table soon. We sincerely invite you to visit with Pastors Moline or Poppe about the joys of Holy Communion. They will offer you instruction about our Lutheran faith and this sacrament of the Lord's Supper, so you will be ready to stand with us and partake of this wonderful meal.

The Maundy Thursday service is a part of the Triduum (Latin for "the three days"), an ancient and holy service. The service begins tonight with Maundy Thursday and continues tomorrow with the Tre Ore (literally "the three hours") and the Tenebrae (Service of Darkening), and then concludes with the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

Because of the continuous nature of the service, there will be no Benediction at the end of this service, and tomorrow's services will begin without the Invocation. During these services, we have the opportunity to truly meditate on the depth of our sin and the cost that Jesus Christ paid by His bloody death and glorious resurrection.

During the service, there will be no collection of the offering, but if you desire to leave a gift, there will be collection plates in the back of the church as you leave.

The Maundy Service commemorates the Last Supper where Jesus instituted that we eat and drink His very body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution

The service begins with an honest examination of our sin so that we may be absolved by Jesus and He would be the center of the Triduum service. Please stand.

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

C **Amen**

P I will go to the altar of God,

C **to God my exceeding joy.** *Psalm 43*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

Sit

P During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil – all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other. Since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night when He instituted this blessed meal for our salvation, it is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently examining ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. This holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you." It is as if He said, "I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat."

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and 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." Again, it is as if He said, "I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink."

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death – that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another in love. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread

and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C **Amen**

P Having heard the word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Stand in silent reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen**.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C **Yes.**

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

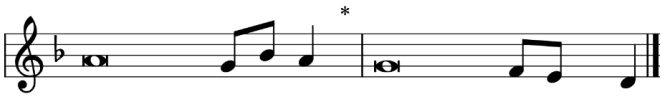
In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**.

P 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.

C **Amen**.

Introit **Choir Sings Italicized**



*But far be it from | me to boast**
Except in the cross of our Lord | Jesus Christ.
*In him is salvation, life, and resurrection | from the dead;**
By him we are redeemed and set at | liberty.
May God be gracious to us and | bless us*
And make his face to shine up- | on us,
That your way may be | known on earth,*
Your saving power among all | nations.
Let the people praise you, | O God;
Let all the people | praise you!
God, our God, shall |bless us.*
God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth | fear him!
*But far be it from | me to boast**
Except in the cross of our Lord | Jesus Christ.
*In him is salvation, life, and resurrection | from the dead;**
By him we are redeemed and set at | liberty.

Salutation and Collect **LSB 156**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Old Testament **Exodus 12:1-14**

Gradual **Chanted Together**

He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered;*
the Lord is gracious and | merciful.
He provides food for those who | fear him:*
he remembers his covenant for- | ever.

Epistle **1 Corinthians 11:23-32**

Tract **Chanted Together**

He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered;*
the Lord is gracious and | merciful.
He provides food for those who |fear him:*
he remembers his covenant for- | ever.
My flesh is true food, and my blood is | true drink.*
Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and | I in him.

Lenten Verse **LSB 157**

Gospel **John 13:1-15, 34-35**

Sermon Hymn **LSB 623**

Sermon

Due to the solemnity of the service, the creed is omitted.

Prayer of the Church

Preface and Sanctus **LSB 160-161**
Lord's Prayer **LSB 162**

Words of Institution and Distribution

Using Christ's very words, we consecrate the bread and the wine, trusting Christ's promise that His own crucified and resurrected body and blood are physically present as well in, with, and under the bread and wine.

Pax Domini and Agnus Dei **LSB 163**

Distribution Hymns **618, 439, 445, 634**

Following the distribution, we move right to the Post-Communion Collect, skipping the Canticle because of the solemn nature of the service. Following the collect, Psalm 22 will be read in its entirety while the altar is reverently stripped of its furnishings and paraments in preparation for Good Friday. The stripping of the altar reminds us that Jesus was stripped and humiliated before He was crucified for you and the sins of the whole world.

Post Communion Collect

Stripping of the Altar **Psalm 22 Sung by Choir**

Written many years before the birth of Jesus, Psalm 22 gives us a picture of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. At the conclusion of the stripping of the altar, you may remain in silent prayer as long as you wish. Please exit in silence.

You may follow along with the words in the front of your hymnal.

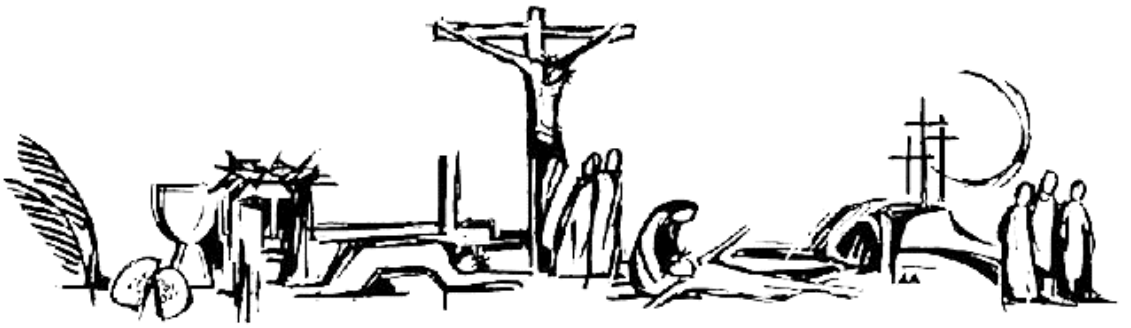
There is no benediction to the Maundy Thursday service as it is a part of the Triduum. The service continues tomorrow at noon with the Tre Ore service.

Easter Worship Schedule

You are invited to the rest of our Triduum Services.

Tre Ore Service - Good Friday 12:15 pm

Tenebrae Service of Darkening - Good Friday 7:30 pm

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 6:00 pm

Easter Morning – Sunday 6:30, 8:30 & 10:30 am