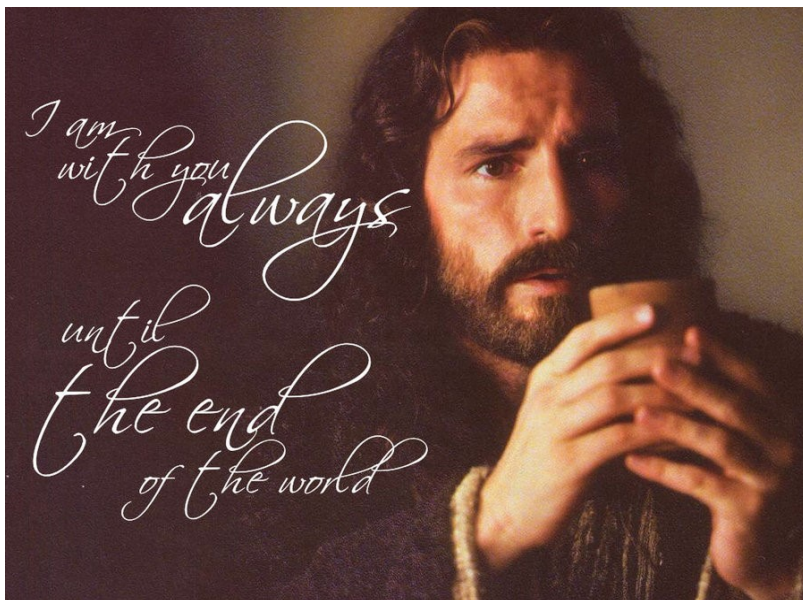




St. John Lutheran Church

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April 17, 2025 – Maundy Thursday

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Traditional Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

Today's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service.

May God bless your worship with us today,
Paul Kruse, Pastor

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

Mobile: 989-992-6030

Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live, Learn, Share, and Serve'

*Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of Christian
faith in our community, to all generations, wherever they may
be'*

Prelude

Creative Worship Service

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Song

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" LSB 437

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died
For His own creatures' sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away:
'Tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Text: Public domain

Invocation

LSB 203

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

C **Amen.**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Forgiveness

- P** By means of His Word and Supper, we gather together this day to receive our Savior's mercy and respond to Him in thanksgiving and praise. Because of our sins of thought, word, and deed, we are spiritually bankrupt and unworthy of the grace we receive. Yet at the invitation of our loving Redeemer, we come to His Table and take our place with Him. Acknowledging our sin, let us find refuge in our God of grace and say, "God be merciful to me, a sinner."

In silent prayer, we reflect on God's Word and confess our sins to the Lord.

- P** Let us pray together:

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life, that we may enjoy the fullness of Your presence at the feast You have prepared for all who trust in You. Amen.**

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise again for you so that you may be redeemed and restored. You have been invited to the eternal banquet, the heavenly feast, where our Savior and Host delights us with the richest of fare, the forgiveness of sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a servant of Christ and your pastor, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C:** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

- P** Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
C **our God is merciful.**
P I love the Lord, because he has heard
C **my voice and my pleas for mercy.**
P Because he inclined his ear to me,
C **therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**
P The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
C **I suffered distress and anguish.**

P Then I called on the name of the Lord:

C **"O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"**

P Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;

C **our God is merciful.**

Lord, Have Mercy (*Sung*)

LSB 204

C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray...Lord Jesus, in this sacred Meal You have left us a remembrance of Your suffering and death for our salvation.

C **As we eat with You in the kingdom of God, grant that our hearts and minds may be turned to You alone;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 22:7-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the twenty-second chapter

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." ⁹ They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" ¹⁰ He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters ¹¹ and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹² And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." ¹³ And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

LSB 206

G **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.

Message Song

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" *LSB 436*

Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?

Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.
Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854 Text: Public domain

Message

"A Debt to be Paid"

Offering

Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.



Prayer of the Church

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us lift up our hearts and voices to the God of all mercy as He has invited us to pray to Him in the name of our Savior and in the way in which He has taught us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Our Father in heaven, look with mercy upon us, for without Your aid we are spiritually poor, crippled, blind, and lame. Grant us grace that Your holy name is kept sacred among us and that, in all the world, Your Son may be known through the preaching of Your Word to the ends of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P King of kings, may Your rule and reign come to us and expand throughout the world. Bring all who are blinded by sin and bound by death to know Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Work through our earthly leaders and public servants so that Your hand of blessing may be known to all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that by faith we cling to the One who was betrayed and handed over to death for us. Into Your care we commend those who have needs in both soul and body, [*especially . . .*]. For

these, and for all those we name before You in the silence of our hearts, we ask that Your will may be done among us [*silence*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P How blessed we are to eat bread in Your kingdom, O God! Lord Jesus, You alone are the Bread of Life, and You alone satisfy our hungry hearts. Grant to us our daily bread and help us to realize that You daily and richly provide for all that we need according to Your own riches and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us. Center our hearts and minds on You alone. As we recognize that we are spiritually bankrupt without Your mercy, grant that the spirit of unforgiveness be removed from us so that we live in peace with You and with one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us to take refuge in Your grace. On this very night, You were betrayed by one of Your own and handed over to death. Direct us to follow You to the cross of Calvary, where You laid down Your life to deliver us from the evil one and all his works and all his ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We belong to You, O Lord. Renew us, guide us, and lead us so that we may bless Your holy name and celebrate the feast You have prepared for us,

C for Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and proper . . . Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Holy, Holy, Holy (*Sung*)

LSB 208

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

P Blessed are 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.

C Jesus prepares His Table before us and invites us to feast with Him in His eternal kingdom.

P Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of Christ's cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

The Peace of the Lord

LSB 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Lamb of God (sung)

LSB 210

**☐ O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:

- 1. Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*
- 2. Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
- 3. Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*
- 4. Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*
- 5. Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
- 6. Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?*

If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer "yes" to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises.

Distribution Song "Jesus, in Your Dying Woes" LSB 447 vs 1-3, 5-6 & 9

Jesus, in Your dying woes,
Even while Your lifeblood flows,
Craving pardon for Your foes:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Savior, for our pardon sue
When our sins Your pangs renew,
For we know not what we do:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Oh, may we, who mercy need,
Be like You in heart and deed,
When with wrong our spirits bleed:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

May we in our guilt and shame
Still Your love and mercy claim,
Calling humbly on Your name:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

May our hearts to You incline
And their thoughts Your cross entwine.
Cheer our souls with hope divine:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

May we all Your loved ones be,
All one holy family,
Loving, since Your love we see:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Song of Simeon *(Sung)*

LSB 211

- C** O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace, For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.
All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One; For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Prayer

- P** Let us pray... O Jesus, Lamb of God, we thank You for refreshing us through the gift of Your body and blood in this sacred Meal.
- C** **Enable us with renewed minds and hearts to always love and trust in You alone; Amen.**
- P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Blessing

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

The Stripping of the Altar

A Reading from Psalm 22

The Cross and the Altar – where blood was shed

The congregation leaves in silence when the lights come up.

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

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