

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



A HOLY WEEK:  
HIS FOOD, OUR FILL

*Holy Thursday*

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church | Wisconsin Rapids, WI

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April 14, 2022

## Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

## Service Notes for Today



As the sun set on Holy Thursday, the day marked the end of something old and the start of something new. The Old 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 Covenant only exposed their flaws. When God established his New Covenant, it was not a two-sided contract. It was more like a will, listing all the blessings God promised graciously to give his people. No matter who you are or what you have done, the blessings of the New Covenant are "for you." Eat the food Christ offers, and all your spiritual and eternal needs are satisfied.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 10 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

## Acknowledgments

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# Holy Thursday

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## Welcome

## Hymn

416 *When You Woke That Thursday Morning*  
*Please join beginning with the second verse.*

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{T}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Confession

Brothers and sisters in Christ, 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 should 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, first instituted on this night, 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.

As we begin the solemn celebration of our Lord's passion, let us confess our sins to him, receive his absolution, and be reconciled to God and each other in Christian love.

**Holy God, gracious Father,  
I am sinful by nature  
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.  
I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should.  
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.  
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death.  
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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  $\Upsilon$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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

**Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

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 a 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.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **First Reading**

*Jeremiah 31:31–34*

*The Old Covenant could only modify behavior. The New Covenant transforms hearts and minds.*

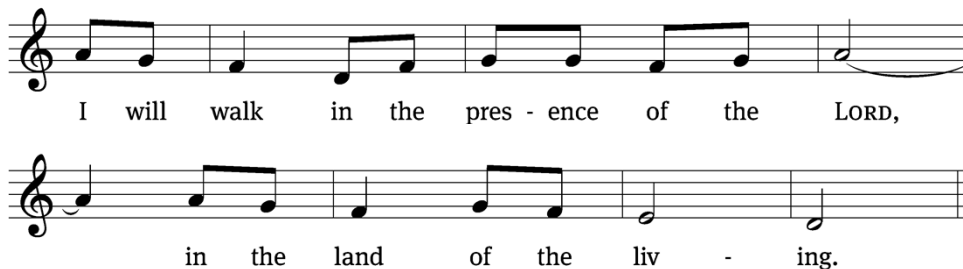
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

116B I Will Walk in the Presence of the Lord  
Please join to sing the refrain and the "Glory be..."

### Refrain



I will walk in the pres - ence of the LORD,  
in the land of the liv - ing.

### Tone



I love the LORD, for he / heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for / mercy.  
Because he turned his / ear to me,  
I will call on him as long / as I live.  
The LORD is gracious and / righteous;  
when I was brought low, he / saved me. *Refrain*

What shall I return / to the LORD  
for all his good- / ness to me?  
I will lift up the cup of sal- / vation  
and call on the name / of the LORD.  
Precious in the sight / of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful / servants.  
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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## Second Reading

Hebrews 10:15–25

*The New Covenant satisfies our souls; it also enables us to confidently draw near to God.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Choir Anthem

669 *In This Holy, Blest Communion*

*Stand*

## Gospel

Luke 22:7–20

*Jesus institutes the meal of the New Covenant—food and drink that satisfy every spiritual need.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## Hymn of the Day

659 *Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior*

## Sermon

*Stand*

### **The Power of the Lord’s Supper**

How can eating and drinking do such great things?

**It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words “given” and “poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.”**

**These words are the main thing in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking.**

**And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.**

*Be seated*

*Please take a moment now to fill out a Connect Card.*

### **Prayer of the Church**

Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb of God, pictured in the ancient Passover feast, now giving your own body and pouring out your own blood in Holy Communion. Just as the Passover lambs assured the Israelites of God’s promise to deliver them from death,

**strengthen our belief that the bread is your real body and the wine is your real blood, given to us for our forgiveness, life, and salvation.**

Prepare us to receive this sacrament remembering your death and repenting of our sins.  
**Unite us by our oneness of faith throughout this congregation and our synod, and love us to the end that we may love others as you have loved us.**

We rejoice in our fellow believers who have been instructed in your Word and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, who are now ready to receive Holy Communion.  
**Equip them with every spiritual blessing for doing your will.**

We pray for those absent from the sacrament because of their own neglect.  
**Call them in your mercy to return and renew their faith.**

Keep in your care those unable to receive the sacrament often because they are homebound, hospitalized, imprisoned, serving in the military, or otherwise separated from the fellowship of believers. Encourage them so that they do not lose hope.  
**Be gracious to us all and nourish us with this feast, that we remain faithful unto death, and become partakers of the wedding feast of the Lamb. Amen.**

## Offering

*Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Guests, please don't feel obligated to take part in the offering. We're just happy you're here as our guest to hear and take to heart the message of Jesus. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.*



## Musical Offering

## The Sacrament

*Stand*

### Preface

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Tune: *MUNICH*



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."  
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:  
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.  
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O Lord, because you have brought us from death to life. With humble and repentant hearts, we praise and thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,  
 who became our substitute under your holy law,  
 who destroyed the works of the devil by his perfect obedience to your will,  
 who willingly carried a cross to pay the debt of the world's sin,  
 who lives and reigns to give us life.

Through his body and blood, once given and poured out for us, forgive our sins and strengthen us for our journey heavenward. Unite us to our crucified and risen Lord, that we may believe in him, confess him, call on his name, and finally be brought to the eternal feast of the Lamb.

**Amen.**



## Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## Words of Institution

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  $\text{T}$  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  $\text{T}$  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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## O Christ, Lamb of God

*Tune: WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEN*



1 Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Christ, who takes a - way  
2 Je - sus, in your mer - cy, make us pure with - in;  
3 Let your end - less mer - cy ev - er - more in - crease;



all the world's trans - gres - sions, lis - ten as we pray:  
cleanse us by your per - fect sac - ri - fice for sin.  
com - fort us with par - don, calm us with your peace.

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*Be seated*

## Distribution

## Distribution Hymn

677 *The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord*

### Questions for Examination

- † Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?
- † Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?
- † Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?
- † Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens me to live a God-pleasing life?
- † Am I a member of a church that belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)?
- † If you answered “no” to any of these questions, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, one of the pastors would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Be seated

### The Stripping of the Altar

The altar is an ageless symbol in Christian churches around the world. It signifies Christ's presence among us. As the altar is stripped, we see Christ's suffering depicted for us in an artistic and solemn way:

The lights will be dimmed to remind us of the darkness of Gethsemane and Good Friday.

The adornments on and around the altar will be removed. The altar will be left all alone, reminding us that Christ was left alone in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The candles will be extinguished and removed. This signifies how Christ's life was snuffed out for sinners on the cross.

The paraments will be removed or covered, and the altar will be left empty, reminding us of all that Christ endured for us, being left bare, alone, and lifeless on the cross.

There will be no blessing, announcements, or post-service music. Following the final ceremony, we will depart in reverent silence. This is to help prepare our hearts for the solemnity of Good Friday.

During the stripping of the altar, it is customary to hear the words of Psalm 88. Please listen to and ponder the message of the psalm, as well as the message of this ceremony.

## Psalm 88

*Tune of CW 393*

O Lord God, who saves me; day and night I cry to you.  
Turn your ear to hear my plea; may my prayer come before you.  
For my soul is full of woe, and my life draws near the grave;  
I'm like those who lose all strength; sink to pits where none can save.

I am counted in the grave, like the dead already there;  
Not remembered, e'en by you; fully cut off from your care.  
You have put me in the depths, in the lowest pit I'm cast;  
Your wrath lies heavy on me; with your waves, I'm drowned at last.

You have taken closest friends, made me be abhorred by them.  
I am trapped, cannot escape, and with grief my eyes are dim.  
Daily I call to you, Lord; I spread out my hands to you.  
Will you show the dead your works? Will the dead rise and praise you?

Is your love declared in death and your faithfulness there found?  
Are your wonders known in gloom? Can your righteousness abound?  
Still I cry to you for help; in the morning my prayers rise.  
Why, Lord, do you reject me, hide your face from my worn eyes?

From my youth, I've been distraught, close to death and in despair,  
And your wrath has swept 'round me, terrors kept me from your care.  
Those fears all day surround me, and engulf me without end.  
Friends you have taken from me; darkness is my closest friend.



Good Friday Worship at 12:10 & 6:30 PM  
Easter Sunday Worship at 7:00 & 9:30 AM  
Easter breakfast served 8:00-9:00





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