

HOLY THURSDAY

April 6, 2023
7:00 P.M.

HYMN No. 631 “Here, O My Lord I See You Face to Face” (vss. 1 & 2)

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav’n,
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste a fresh the calm of sin forgiv’n.



INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son
 and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Hebrews 9:11–12*

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have come together intending to receive our Lord Jesus Christ’s body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper. The Sacrament provides comfort for troubled hearts and freedom from the wrath we deserve.

When we look at our lives and conduct, though, we find sin and rebellion. Worse, we cannot free ourselves by our own strength. “But when Christ appeared as a high priest . . . He entered once for all into the holy places . . . by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.”

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

P: O almighty God,
C: merciful Father, I confess that I am a poor, miserable sinner. I have sinned in my thinking, speaking, and acting. Even my repentance often lacks sincerity for I continue to do the very things that offend You and my neighbors.

I need deliverance but am too weak to overcome my sinful nature, the world's influence, and Satan's deceptive traps. I deserve Your punishment here in time and hereafter in eternity. In Your boundless mercy, hear my prayer for rescue and for the sake of Your Son's giving Himself over to suffering and death on my behalf, be 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.

SONG OF PRAISE "He Will Hold Me Fast"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion.

C: 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;

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

C: Amen.

The OLD TESTAMENT READING for our Holy Thursday Service is from the Book of Exodus, chapter 24. *(Exodus 24:3–11)*

Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 116:12–19*

L: What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?

C: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.

L: Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.

C: O LORD, I am Your servant; I am Your servant,
the son of Your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

L: I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.

C: I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!

EPISTLE **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when 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 also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a; John 13:1b*

**P: Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood,
C: thus securing an eternal redemption.**

**P: Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,
C: so that those who are called
may receive the promised eternal inheritance.**

**P: He sent redemption to His people;
C: He has commanded His covenant forever.**

**P: Having loved His own who were in the world,
C: He loved them to the end.**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 22:14–20 (Institution of the Lord’s Supper)

**L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” 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.” And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

**L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN No. 618 “I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”

**I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone are able
To satisfy and make me whole.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning,
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy Lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art:
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

SERMON "Proclaiming the Death of the Living One" Pastor Vern

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various needs.

For ourselves, that we treasure the promises of God made to His people in the past and to us today, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the Church around the world, that it be free to gather around Word and Sacrament and rejoice in every opportunity to spread the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our brothers and sisters in Christ, that they seek the Lord's help in resisting temptation and in their lives of faith and love, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For people in positions of power locally, nationally, and among the nations of the world, that God give them wisdom and compassion, ordering society within their borders and seeking peace across them, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all who call out to God, all in danger from natural disasters and manmade oppression, those in crises of health and chronic disabilities, and many who languish in poverty and isolation, that God would hear their spoken prayers and unspoken sighs, granting them relief, restoration, and enjoyment of life, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all who rush toward danger, who raise crops and tend herds, who deliver the world's goods, who provide communication and social services, who protect and defend their neighbors and countries, that God would guide and protect them so that many may be served by their dedication and resolve, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all who come to the Lord's Table this day seeking peace in their hearts, that God's mercy and love would enable them to rejoice in the forgiveness, life, and salvation that our gracious Savior offers here, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of the bitter sufferings, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

C: We lift them to the Lord.

- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*
C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

- P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who willingly gave His own body and shed His own blood to assure us in the eternal covenant of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *(spoken)*

- C: "Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. His once-for-all sacrifice in the new and eternal covenant assures us of life forever in Your presence.

As we respond to His gracious invitation and joyfully gather in His name, we pray You to strengthen our faith until that day when, with all the faithful, You welcome us to the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C: Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

- P: 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."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

All: 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 PEACE OF THE LORD

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

C: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI *John 1:29, adapted*

P: John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him, and said,
"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy on us.

**P: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C: grant us peace; grant us peace. Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “Jesus, You Are My Life” (video)
LSB 641 - “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR *Psalm 22* “Agnus Dei” Samuel Barber

The congregation departs in silence.