

# *“Places Of The Passion”*

## *Maundy Thursday: The Upper Room*

*April 1, 2021*

### *Order of Service*

*And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready;  
there prepare for us. Mark 14:15*

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us ever walk with Jesus.

**To see the depths of his love.**

To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

**To gaze upon the heights of his grace.**

To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

**We travel to the Upper Room.**

To watch as Christ delivers the Gospel.

**In his true body and blood.**

Faithful Lord, with me abide.

**I shall follow where you guide!**

### **Hymn “Jesus, Refuge Of The Weary” LSB 423**

**Jesus, refuge of the weary,  
blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life’s desert dreary,  
Savior from the world above:  
Often have your eyes, offended,  
gazed upon the sinner’s fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended,  
you have borne the pain of all.**

**Do we pass that cross unheeding,  
breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see you wounded, bleeding,  
see your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet your sinless death has brought us  
life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what your grace has taught us  
calms the sinner’s deep distress.**

**Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
with more fervent love for you;  
May our eyes be ever turning to  
behold your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never  
from the blessed Savior’s side,  
Graven in our hearts forever,  
dwell the cross, the Crucified.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

O Lord, in this wonderful Sacrament of you 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.

**Amen.**

## **Old Testament Reading, Exodus 12:1-14**

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

## **Epistle Reading, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8**

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

## **Gospel Reading, Matthew 26:17-29**

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of 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." Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

## **Confession of Faith – Sacrament of the Altar**

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

**It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.**

Where is this written?

**The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: 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."**

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

**These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.**

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

**Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."**

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

**Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.**

**Sermon Hymn "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" LSB 570**

**Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me  
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, and waiting not  
to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Sermon "The Upper Room" Matthew 26:17-29**

## **Prayers**

Your perfect love, O Lord, has borne our sin and delivered us from death. Give to us the grace of your forgiveness so that we may enjoy the blessing of a clear conscience and serve you without fear. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Jesus, your love has gathered the lonely and lost and created the Church, where sinners may come and find a place at your table of grace and mercy. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Jesus, your love supports the wounded in body and spirit, and your grace sustains the sick and suffering. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Jesus, your love welcomes the brokenhearted and binds up those who are crushed in spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Jesus, your love has promised to hear our prayer and to answer us with all that is good and right and true. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Jesus, your love sets a table before us in the presence of our enemies to receive the food and drink of your body and blood.

**Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Words of Our Lord**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

King David prays, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

**My heart, O God, is often anything but broken and contrite.**

Instead, it is covered in calluses.

**Because I hold grudges.**

Keep score,

**Refuse repentance.**

And turn away from humility and kindness.

**Lord, soften my spirit.**

Because a hard heart is like a wrecking ball.

**It mangles marriages.**

Condemns children.

**And finishes off families and friends. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

### **Absolution**

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**Amen.**

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

**Yes.**

Let it be done for you as you believe. I invite you forward to receive individual absolution.

*The congregation comes forward for individual absolution; after receiving absolution, you may proceed to the communion rail to taste the goodness of the Lord, receiving assurance that your sins are forgiven and receive strength for life in him.*

## **Blessing**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Gracious heavenly Father, in the midst of this Passion Week, when we remember all that Your beloved Son sacrificed for us, You have given us a remembrance of the Passover meal and the freedom from bondage it recalls. You have given us true pardon and peace in this Holy Supper, and a foretaste of the feast to come. Keep us firm in the true faith that our sins are forgiven by faith in Your Son until we celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom that has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **+ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR +**

*(At this time, the Communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday. This symbolic act reminds us that Christ was stripped of His powers prior to His suffering and death on the cross.)*

*(At the conclusion of the stripping of the altar, the congregation leaves the sanctuary in silence.)*

*(The Holy Week story continues tomorrow on Good Friday)*