

## + HOLY THURSDAY: APRIL 2, 2026 +

### Worship Notes

This service for Holy Thursday is the first service in the celebration of the holy three days of Christ's Passover, commonly known as the Triduum. It culminates the Lenten period of preparation for Christ's Passion and Resurrection and leads into His sacrifice on our behalf. As such, the service, like that for Good Friday, exhibits a mood of restrained joy. It consists of four parts: the Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution, the Service of the Word, the Service of the Sacrament, and the Stripping of the Altar.

The service of Corporate Confession and Absolution signals the end of the Lenten preparations with the absolution and peace of Christ that stand at the center of the Three Days. The Service of the Word focuses upon Christ's servanthood. The Service of the Sacrament culminates in the sacramental meal of Christ to His gathered people.

The depth of Christ's servanthood is demonstrated as the altar is reverently stripped in preparation for the Church's observance of Jesus' death. In this service, the Church begins the journey through the three days of Christ's Passover from death to life and from captivity to freedom.

*Please stand as you are able and face the baptismal font.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Silence for reflection.*

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**C** Make haste to help me, O Lord.

**P** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

**C** A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His

body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do, for 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 ourselves, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of setting ourselves free. 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 the faith and in a cheerful obedience to His holy will, He has instituted the holy Sacrament of His supper, in which He feeds us with His body and gives us His 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 as He has loved us. 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.

And now I ask you before God, who searches the heart:

Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

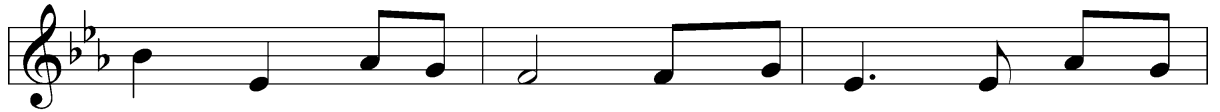
**C** I do so confess.

**P** Verily, you should confess; for Holy Scripture declares, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

Do you heartily repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

**C** I do so repent.





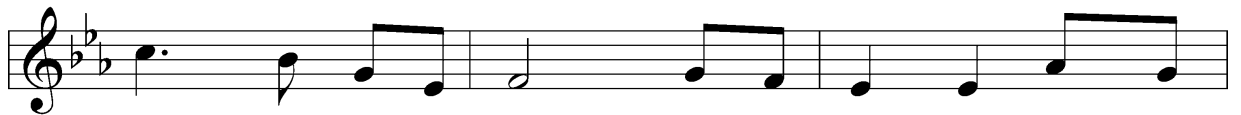
teach - er, faith - ful friend, Thoughts of self and safe - ty  
with tor - ment - ed heart To be with Your dear ones  
nev - er be out - spent, What great gift that would out -  
bod - y, You the head, When we meet, by You in -  
vi - sion glo - ri - ous, And Your saints will know the



scorn - ing, Know - ing how the day would end;  
on - ly For a qui - et hour a - part:  
live them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?  
vit - ed, You are with us, as You said.  
rap - ture That Your heart de - sired for us,



Lamb of God, fore - told for a - ges, Now at  
Sin - less Lamb and fall - en crea - ture, One last  
"Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me  
One with You and one an - oth - er In a  
When the longed - for peace and u - nion Of the



last the hour had come When but One could pay sin's  
pas - chal meal to eat, One last les - son as their  
as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance  
u - ni - ty sub - lime, See in us Your sis - ter,  
Great - est and the least Meet in joy - ous, blest com -



wa - ges: You as - sumed their dread - ful sum.  
teach - er, Wash - ing Your dis - ci - ples' feet.  
of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood."  
broth - er, One in ev - 'ry place and time.  
mu - nion In Your nev - er - end - ing feast.

*Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008*

*Tune: Marty Haugen, 1950*

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## **Salutation and Collect of the Day: Holy (Maundy) Thursday**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**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.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

### **Old Testament**

*Exodus 12:1–14*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>“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. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup>And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>“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.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle

*1 Corinthians 11:23–32*

<sup>23</sup>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, <sup>24</sup>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.” <sup>25</sup>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.” <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

<sup>27</sup>Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup>Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup>For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. <sup>30</sup>That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. <sup>31</sup>But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup>But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Holy Gospel

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

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him,

<sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup>rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup>If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. . . .

<sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

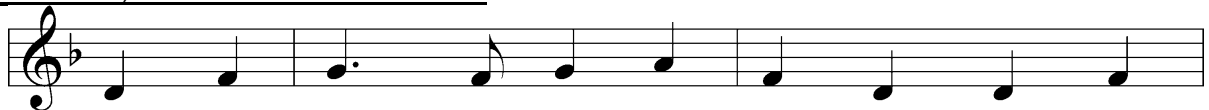
**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

**Hymn 'Jesus, Greatest at the Table'**

*LSB 446*



1	Je - sus,	great	-	est	at	the	ta - ble,	The	al -
2	Mar - vel	how		their	Lord	and	teach - er	Gent - ly	
3	Je - sus	took		the	role	of	ser - vant	When	up -
4	Can	we	fath - om	such	deep	mer - cy?	Do	we	
5	Je - sus	gave		to	His	dis - ci - ples	A	com -	



might - y Son of Man, Laid a - side His out - er cloth - ing,  
 taught them not to vie As He hum - bly knelt be - fore them,  
 on that grue - some span, For all hu - man sin He suf - fered  
 see what God has done? Who can grasp this great re - ver - sal:  
 mand - ment that was new: "Show My love to one an - oth - er,



Poured some wa - ter in a pan; As the Twelve lay,  
 Dust - y feet to wash and dry, By His ten - der  
 As a vile and loath - some man; On the cross poured  
 Love that gives His on - ly Son? Christ, the sin - less  
 Do as I have done for you; All the world will



hushed in si - lence, He the ser - vant's task be - gan.  
 touch ex - press - ing True com - pas - sion from on high.  
 out like wa - ter To ful - fill the Fa - ther's plan.  
 for the sin - ners, For the man - y dies the One.  
 know you love Me As you love each oth - er too."

*Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955*

*Tune: David McCarthy, 1931*

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## **Sermon**

“An Object Lesson and Then Some”

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Prayer of the Church**

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the Holy Church of Christ, that through this Sacrament and the proclamation of His death, Christ's way may be known on earth and His saving power shared among all nations, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

- P** For zeal for God's house, Word and table, that we may ever rejoice in the privilege of His grace, whereby we have been called to faith, sustained in hope and kept in the true faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the Church, that the Lord would provide for her faithful pastors and church workers; and that we may keep the faith and not be led astray by every wind of change, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our leaders, that God would give them wisdom and courage to serve His Word in the punishment of wrong, the promotion of good and the protection of the weak, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For mothers with child and the children in their wombs, that none would dishonor the Lord's sacred gift of life, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who have requested our prayers, [*including \_\_\_\_\_*], that God would grant relief to the suffering, comfort to the grieving and peace to the dying, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** That the blood of Jesus would be upon us and our children to cleanse us from sin and bestow His new and eternal covenant, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** In gratitude for the new testament in Christ's blood, whose institution is celebrated this day among all peoples, that the world for which He died may know Him and His sacrifice, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all

the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

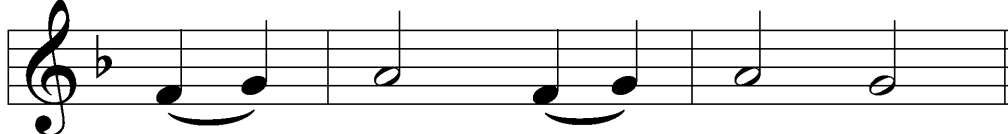
+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

Preface

LSB 194



**P** The Lord be with you.



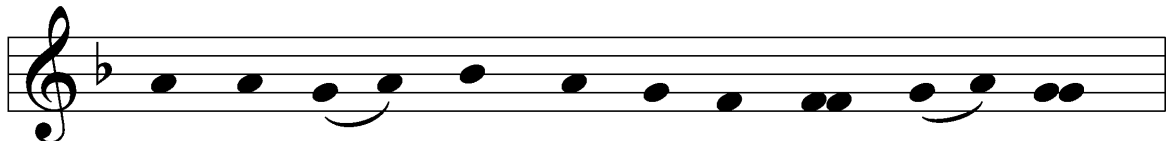
**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface (Full)

**P** It is truly meet, 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 accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. 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

*LSB 195*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



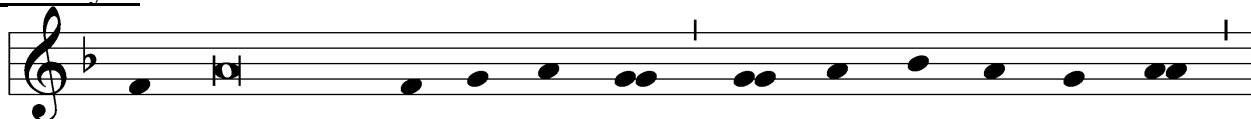
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



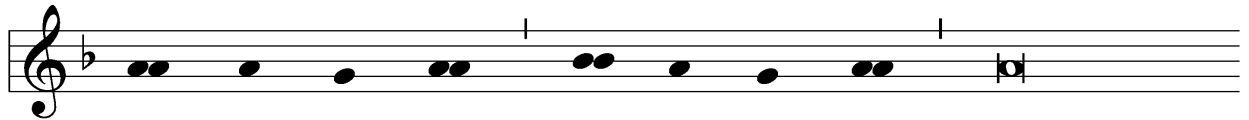
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

*LSB 196*



**P** Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it



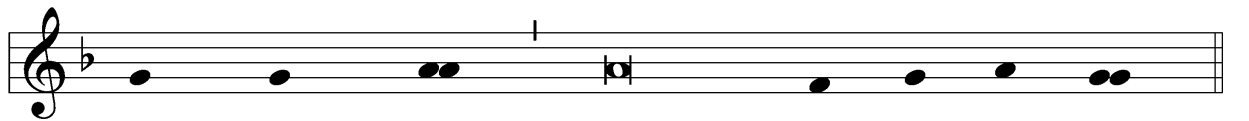
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who



tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to



temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.



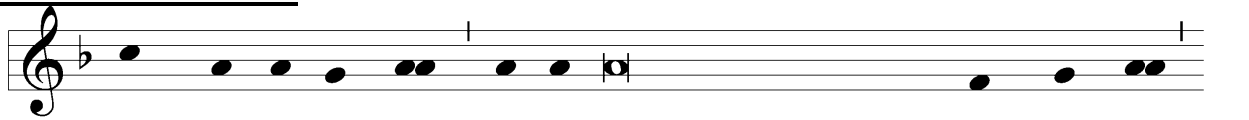
**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

**The Words of Our Lord**

*LSB 197*



**P** Our Lord Je - sus Christ, on the night when He was be - trayed, took bread,

and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the  
 dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ̣ bod - y, which is giv-en for you.  
 This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so  
 He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it  
 to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in  
 My ̣ blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.  
 This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

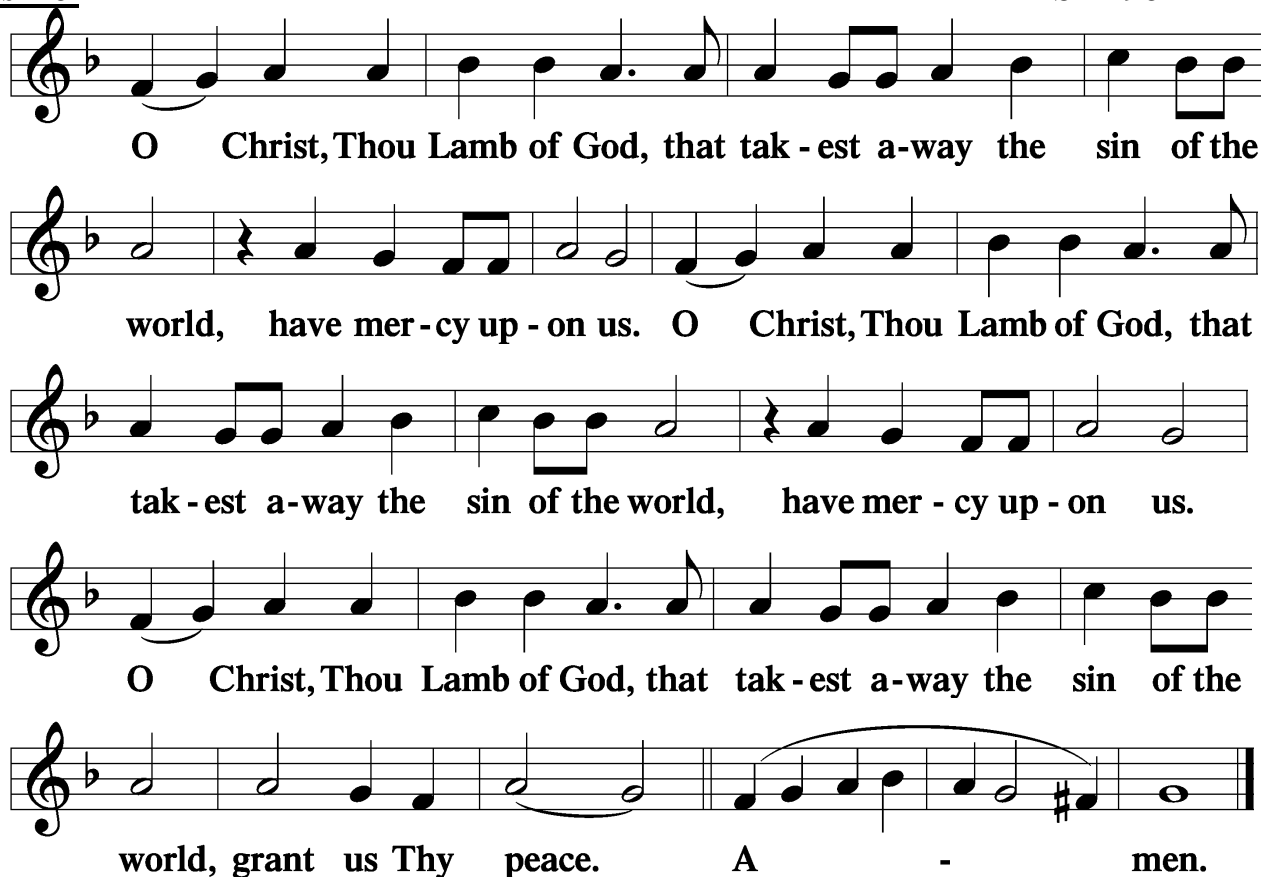
**Pax Domini**

*LSB 197*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.  
**G** A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

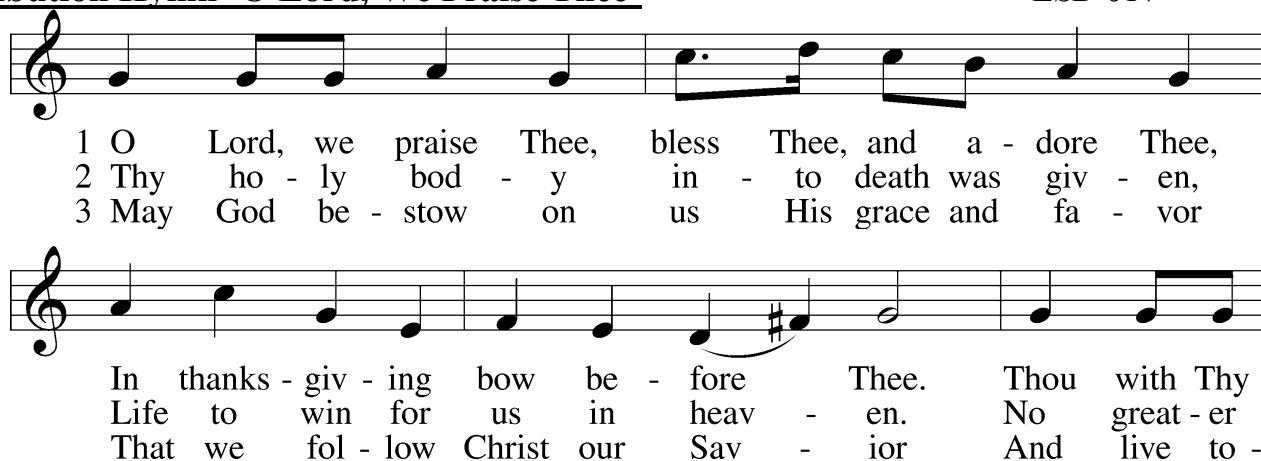


O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Please be seated.*

Distribution Hymn 'O Lord, We Praise Thee'

LSB 617



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,  
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,  
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor  
In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy  
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er  
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that  
 love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -  
 geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our  
 Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy  
 Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead  
 blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;  
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

*Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2-3): Martin Luther, 1483-1546*  
*Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter*  
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*Tune: Public domain*

### **Distribution Hymn 'O Perfect Life of Love'**

*LSB 452*



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all, is fin - ished now,  
 2 No work is left un - done Of all the Fa - ther willed;  
 3 No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;  
 4 And on His thorn - crowned head And on His sin - less soul



All that He left His throne a - bove To do for us be - low.  
His toil, His sor - rows, one by one, The Scrip - tures have ful - filled.  
All forms of hu - man grief and care Have pierced that ten - der heart.  
Our sins in all their guilt were laid That He might make us whole.

- 5 In perfect love He dies;  
For me He dies, for me.  
O all-atoning Sacrifice,  
I cling by faith to Thee.
- 6 In ev'ry time of need,  
Before the judgment throne,  
Thy work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,  
Thy merits, not mine own.
- 7 Yet work, O Lord, in me  
As Thou for me hast wrought;  
And let my love the answer be  
To grace Thy love has brought.

*Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, alt.  
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591  
Text and tune: Public domain*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **Post-Communion Collect: Spoken**

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

+ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR +

*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.*

**Psalm 22**

*Psalm 22*

*All leave the church in silence.*

**Acknowledgments**

Holy Thursday from Lutheran Service Book

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