

✘ One In Christ, One With Each Other ✘

MAUNDY (HOLY) THURSDAY

✘ PREPARATION ✘

**HYMN** Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted (LSB 451 v1-2)

- 1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,  
See Him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;  
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,  
David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
Proofs I see sufficient of it:  
'Tis the true and faithful Word.
  
- 2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,  
Was there ever grief like His?  
Friends through fear His cause disowning,  
Foes insulting His distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound Him,  
None would intervene to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him  
Was the stroke that justice gave.

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**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✘ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 116:1–4; antiphon: v. 5*

Pastor: I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. <sup>2</sup> Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. <sup>3</sup> The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

I suffered distress and anguish. <sup>4</sup>Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!" <sup>5</sup>Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

## CONFESSION

Pastor: People of God, we struggle against sin, death, and the power of the devil. We have intensified the struggle begun at Baptism to daily die with Christ and also to rise daily in Christ to live anew. In this struggle we have been reminded again that we are weak and Christ is strong. We need the forgiveness of our sins in order to live as the people God has called us to be.

*A time of silence is observed.*

Pastor: Assured of God's love for us through our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sin against God and our neighbors, so that we enter these three days, so central to our faith, reconciled to God and to one another.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION

Pastor: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you

all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Gracious God, Your covenant of love for us came to full fruition in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Guide us to be so moved by the depth of Christ's new covenant of love, that we love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:**Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Exodus 24:3–11* (Moses seals the covenant with the Lord.)

<sup>3</sup>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." <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. <sup>6</sup>And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**           **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**       *Hebrews 9:11–22*       (Jesus is the high priest of the new covenant who gives His own blood, rather than the blood of animals, to secure eternal redemption.)

<sup>11</sup> But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. <sup>15</sup> Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. <sup>16</sup> For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. <sup>17</sup> For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. <sup>18</sup> Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. <sup>19</sup> For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, <sup>20</sup> saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” <sup>21</sup> And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. <sup>22</sup> Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Lector:           This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**           **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**        *John 13:1b*

Pastor:           Having loved His own who were in the world,

**People:**           **He loved them to the end.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 26:17–30*       (Jesus declares the bread to be His body and the cup to be His blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup> 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?" <sup>18</sup> 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.'" <sup>19</sup> And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>21</sup> And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup> And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup> He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup> 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." <sup>25</sup> Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

<sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> 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."

<sup>30</sup> And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted (LSB 451 v3-4)

3 Ye who think of sin but lightly  
Nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly,  
Here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed,  
See who bears the awful load;

'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,  
Son of Man and Son of God.

4 Here we have a firm foundation,  
Here the refuge of the lost:  
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,  
Is the name of which we boast;  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,  
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded  
Who on Him their hope have built.

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## SERMON

### CREED *Second Article and Explanation*

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

#### *What does this mean?*

**I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary; and that He is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

On this holy night in which our Lord gathered His disciples in the Upper Room, we come to You, O Lord, in His name with the concerns of our hearts for ourselves and all people.

*Brief silence*

Pastor: Grant to us zeal for Your house, O Lord, and love for the things of Your Kingdom. Preserve those who are unable to gather together as they wish, and grant them their desire quickly. Give Your Church harmony and peace to confess Your Word with one voice before the world. Cover us with the blood of Christ, and grant us Your Spirit, that we may walk in Your ways and do the good You desire. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, give to us faithful pastors who will preach Your Word in season and out, and give us ears and hearts willing to hear and heed Your voice. Raise up godly men to serve us as pastors, and raise up godly men and women to serve as teachers and in other offices for Your service. Bless those preparing for full-time church work in our seminaries as well as those considering church-work careers. Do not let the world's fears turn them from a faithful and devoted ministry. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: In the midst of plagues and enemies that threaten and a world filled with conflict and terror, give us wise leaders, O Lord, that we may be preserved from harm. Guide those who make and administer our laws to act in timely and prudent ways, and give to all judges knowledge to render justice with mercy. Bless all military and police forces who defend and help us here and abroad. Also, O Lord, protect and be with doctors, nurses, first responders and any other medical personal who are treating those affected by the coronavirus and guide the minds of doctors and researchers who seek a vaccine against Covid-19. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: As generously as You have given to us, O Lord, teach us to be generous in giving, that the poor may not suffer want nor Your Church be deprived of the resources to serve Your purpose both here and across the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Have mercy, Lord, spare Your people and turn this pandemic away!

Preserve the sick, comfort the fearful and grant to the dying Your peace. Heal, if it is Your Will, those who have been affected by the coronavirus or any other illness in this country and in the world. On this day, hear us on behalf of all those who have asked us to pray [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Give us healing in accordance with Your will, strength to bear up under the burdens of this mortal life, and comfort and hope in this and every trial. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, Your Son instituted the Holy Supper which is the most blessed Sacrament to eat and to drink, that what is promised in His testament may be truly received by His friends and heirs. Have mercy on all who are kept from Your table in extraordinary circumstances, and do not shut them out of Your Supper forever. Let the words of this testament echo in their ears and hearts and, in true faith, let them believe these words, trusting that they receive spiritually in faith exactly what Your Son has both won and declared: the forgiveness of sins. Stir up in us a desire to commune with our fellow Christians on Your true body and blood, and bring us soon to the table. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: You know, O Lord, what we need, and You have promised never to abandon us. Help us to endure in faith and, with a joyful countenance, receive the blessings of Your grace and the answers to our prayers; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**      *Matthew 6:9–13*

*The service ends in silence.*

**STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR:** (The altar will be made bare later. Our next livestream service will be tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. where we will focus on the wondrous victory of Christ on the Cross.)

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