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## MAUNDY THURSDAY

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Zion Lutheran Church + Wausau, Wisconsin + March 28, 2024 + 6:30 PM



*Here we are at the threshold.  
This is the most important moment of your lives.  
You have to know that here your most cherished wish will come true.  
The most sincere one.  
The one reached through suffering.*

*~ Andrei Tarkovsky  
from the movie, "The Stalker"*

## PRELUDE

“Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand”

... Steven Wenthe, Kevin Hildebrand, Paul Manz

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

*Please stand and turn towards the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.*

**HYMN** “Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand”

... LSB #564

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

*Please kneel. Silence is kept.*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you, of your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and 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.

*Please be seated. The congregation comes forward to the altar steps to receive personal absolution. When all have returned to their places, please stand.*

*Receive the communion of the spotless mysteries of Christ, believing in fact that they are the body and blood of Christ our God, which He gave to the faithful for the forgiveness of sins. On the same night when He was betrayed, He ordained a new covenant with His holy disciples and apostles and through them for all that should believe on Him.  
~ John of Damascus, d. 749 A.D.*

*Maundy Thursday "is the beginning of the Triduum sacrum, the sacred three days: three days treated as one, "one day made of three," the climax of the Great Week and the celebration of the entire Church year proclaiming the heart and center of the Christian faith. These three days are the high holy days of Christianity. In them the essence of the faith is distilled in swiftly moving, dramatic events: supper, arrest, trial, judgment, crucifixion, burial, resurrection . . .*

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.**

**INTROIT** (*chanted by the Choir*)

But far be it from me to boast  
except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
In him is salvation, life, and resurrection from the dead;  
by him we are redeemed and set at liberty.  
May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
that your way may be known on earth,  
your saving power among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!  
God, our God, shall bless us.  
God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!  
But far be it from me to boast  
except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
In him is salvation, life, and resurrection from the dead;  
by him we are redeemed and set at liberty.

**COLLECT**

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.**

*Please be seated.*

**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.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*. . . Since Advent, everything has been moving towards this “hour,” as Jesus called it; the remainder of the liturgical year flows from these central events. The cross and resurrection, understood together, stand at the center of the year and of all time . . . The celebration emphasizes the primacy of the Church and its intimacy: mutual forgiveness, absolution, reconciliation and peace, the service of one another.*  
~ Philip Pfatteicher,  
Journey into the Heart of God

*It was in the Supper that Paul once learned to understand that the church is the Body of Christ. Because Jesus Christ, both High Priest and sacrificial Lamb, gives us His body and blood to eat and drink, we who were once incorporated into Him in Holy Baptism will be preserved in fellowship with Him. It is a miraculous eating and drinking, indeed, just as the fellowship with Him is something for which there is no possible comparison . . .*

**PSALMODY** *Psalm 116:12-19*

L: What shall I render | to the LORD\*  
for all his bene- | fits to me?

**C: I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation\*  
and call on the name | of the LORD,**

L: I will pay my vows | to the LORD\*  
in the presence of all his | people.

**C: Precious in the sight | of the LORD\*  
is the death | of his saints.**

L: O LORD, I am your | servant,\*  
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.  
You have | loosed my bonds.

**C: I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving\*  
and call on the name | of the LORD.**

L: I will pay my vows | to the LORD\*  
in the presence of all his | people,

**C: in the courts of the house | of the LORD,\*  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. | Praise the LORD!**

**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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

### **TRACT** *(chanted by the Choir)*

He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him;  
he remembers his covenant forever.

My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

### **GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th 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

*. . . Marvelous is this presence of Christ, who is among us, not only spiritually, not only in remembrance and hope, but in the divine mystery of the real and essential presence. It is the entire Christ who is present – true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, the crucified and risen one . . . What one day will be fulfilled in the kingdom of God is present already here. He who will one day come in glory is already present here hidden.*

*~ Herman Sasse, The Holy Supper and the Future, 1939 A.D.*

*The Wisdom of God that restrains the untamed fury of the waters that are above the sky, that sets a bridle on the deep and keeps back the seas, now pours water into a basin; and the Master washed the feet of His servants. The Master shows to His disciples an example of humility . . . As he in whose hand is the life of all things kneels down to wash the feet of His servants.  
~ Matins  
for Holy Thursday,  
Canticle 5*

you wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 8 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." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 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." 11 For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." 12 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? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. . . . 34 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. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

### **MAUNDY HYMN**

"Jesus Greatest at the Table"

... LSB #446

*Stanzas 1 – 2: Choir*

*Stanzas 3 – 5: Congregation*

*As the hymn is sung, the ministers symbolically re-enact Christ's washing of the disciples' feet. When it is ended, please kneel.*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all creation according to its needs.



P: . . . let us pray to the Lord,

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our  
Lord.

C: **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERTORY

“Do This in Remembrance”

... Larry Visser

*Please stand.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Lord of heaven and earth, we praise and thank you for sending  
your Son into our flesh to bear our sins.

C: **Grant us faithfully to eat his body and drink his blood, trust-  
ing in his mercy and all that he has done for our sake. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.



P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Israel ate the meat of a lamb to complete the Passover. Having done so, they smeared their doorposts with blood and laughed at the destroyer. We eat of the Word of the Father, the Son, our Savior. We have the lintels of our hearts sealed with the blood of the new covenant.*

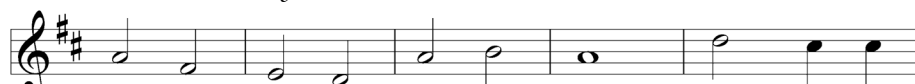
*~ Athanasius,  
d. 373  
A.D.,  
Festal  
Letter*



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you and saying:

### SANCTUS ("Holy")



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 the 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 of it, in remembrance of me."

## LORD'S PRAYER

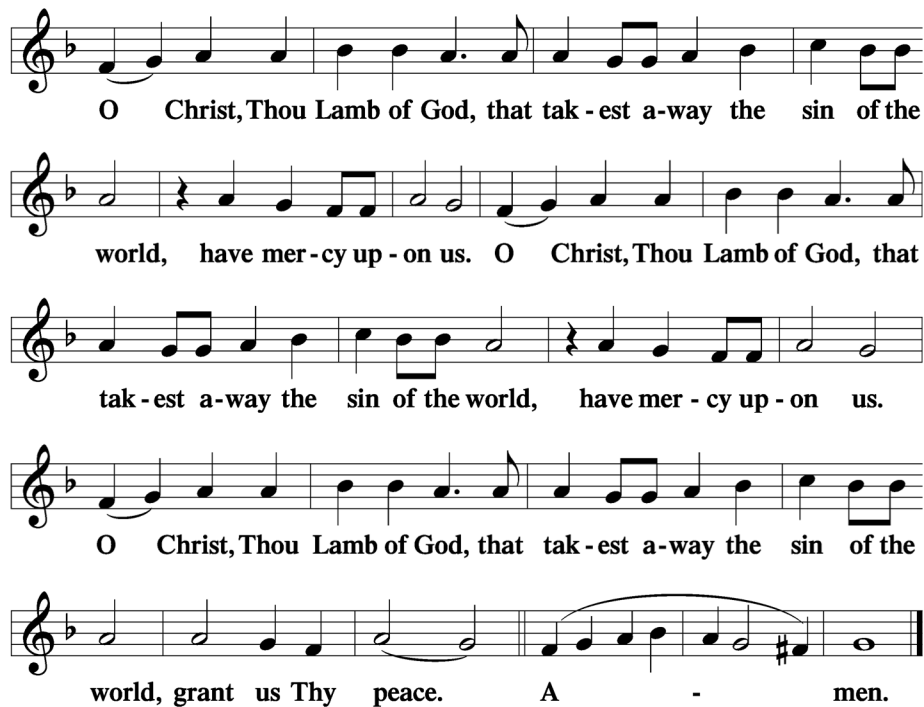
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: **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**

## ACCLAMATION

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

## AGNUS DEI (*"Lamb of God"*)



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.

... There is another dramatic action: the stripping of the altar . . . The altar is stripped and left bare even as Jesus was stripped of His followers and led away under arrest for trial and judgment . . . Not only are we to see Jesus alone and in darkness; we are to see the destruction of the church . . .

*Please be seated.*

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.*

*Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.*

*The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.*

## **COMMUNION HYMNS**

“Thee We Adore” ... Matthew Macheimer

“Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread” ... LSB #625

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” ... LSB #435

*Please stand after all have received the sacrament.*

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray . . . O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

## **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

L: Stay here and keep watch with me. The hour has come.  
Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray.

### **Passion Reading, Part 1**

C: Go to dark Gethsemane,  
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see.  
Watch with him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from his griefs away;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

### **Passion Reading, Part 2**

C: Follow to the judgment hall,  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the worm-wood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn from him to bear the cross.

### **Passion Reading, Part 3**

C: Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;  
There, adoring at his feet,  
Mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to die

*The Paschal Candle is taken outside of the church in remembrance of Christ's arrest.*

*Please leave silently, or remain as long as you wish for prayer.*

*. . . AT the conclusion of the demolition, everything that pertains to the life of the Church, even the Blessed Sacrament, has been removed and the building is rendered empty and lifeless. It is no longer, in a liturgical sense, a church.  
~ Philip Pfatteicher, Journey into the Heart of God*

## **Serving at Worship**

Presiding: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde  
Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Cary Larson  
Assisting: The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson  
(*Pr. Gulhaugen to Bethany at 10:30 am*)  
Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe  
Choir: The Zion Kantorei  
Lector: Scott Ray  
Acolyte: Nik Strand  
Communion: Tom Erdman, Jake Schneider  
Elder: Adam Holzschuh  
Altar Guild: Janet Dettmering, Pam Hoppe  
Stripping of the Altar: *Members of Altar Guild*  
Janet Dettmering, Jane Gjerde, Bonnie Glasel,  
Pam Hoppe, Bonnie Waack, Anna Mae Zeinemann

## **Acknowledgements**

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*"Go to Dark Gethsemane" text is public domain.*



## **Zion Lutheran Church**

**Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403**

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

**Church Telephone: 715-848-7286**

**Senior Pastor** Steven K. Gjerde  
**Associate Pastor** Christopher S. Johnson  
**Kantor** Irene Beethe  
**Office Manager** Jessica G. Ray  
**Custodian** Cody Augustine  
**Deployed Chaplain** Joseph C. Pinzl  
**Pastor Emeritus** Theodore B. Gulhaugen

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[www.zionlutheranwausau.com](http://www.zionlutheranwausau.com)

**Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour**  
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or  
click "Listen Live" at [www.wsau.com](http://www.wsau.com))

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