

Maundy Thursday Service of Prayer and Preaching

Opening Hymn: 433 ss 1-6

1 Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains Poured for me the
lifeblood From His sacred veins!

2 Grace and life eternal In that blood I find; Blest be His
compassion, Infinitely kind!

3 Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream Which
from endless torment Did the world redeem!

4 Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies; But the
blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

5 Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high. Angel
hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood; Louder
still and louder Praise the precious blood!

Opening Versicles

PASTOR: This is the day which the Lord has made;

CONG..... let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PASTOR: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

CONG..... the name of the Lord is to be praised.

PASTOR: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious
and merciful,

CONG..... slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and repents of evil.

PASTOR: Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

CONG..... let him deny himself and take up his cross and
follow Me.

PASTOR: Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

CONG..... He was bruised for our iniquities.

PASTOR: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

CONG..... the name of the Lord is to be praised.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

Choir: "Jesus Priceless Treasure"

Reading From Holy Scripture

ST. MATTHEW 26:26-29

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

Responsory

PASTOR: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus
Christ, the Righteous One.

CONG..... He was delivered up to death; He was
delivered for the sins of the people.

PASTOR: Blessed is the one whose transgression is
forgiven, whose sin is covered.

CONG..... He was delivered up to death; He was
delivered for the sins of the people.

PASTOR: We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus
Christ, the Righteous One.

CONG..... He was delivered up to death; He was
delivered for the sins of the people.

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.

Luther's Small Catechism

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 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 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 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: 621 ss. 1-4

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our Homage to demand.

2 King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of Lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish
As the darkness clears away.

4 At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia,
Lord Most High!"

Sermon: "It's About Comfort and Assurance"
Matthew 26:26-29

Prayer

PASTOR: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

CONG..... Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For the gift of divine peace and pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

CONG..... Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

CONG..... Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For this nation, for our cities and communities,
and for the common welfare of us all, let us
pray to the Lord:

CONG..... Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness
of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

CONG..... Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For those who labor, for those whose work is
difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let
us pray to the Lord:

CONG..... Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For all those in need, for the hungry and
homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and
for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

CONG..... Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For the sick and dying and for all those who
care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

CONG..... Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body
and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

CONG..... Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord,
have mercy.

Collect of the Day

PASTOR: Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare
Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to
bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts
may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that
we fear not the power of sin, death, and the
devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CONG..... Amen.

Choir: "Lamb of God Most Holy"

Blessing

PASTOR: Let us bless the Lord.

CONG..... Thanks be to God.

PASTOR: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

CONG..... Amen.