

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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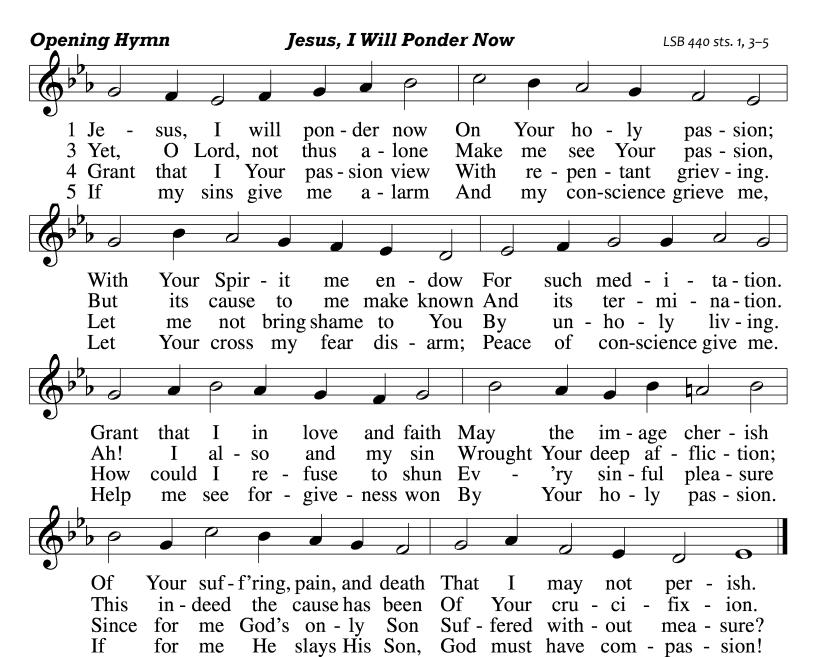
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Invocation (based on Psalms 48:1,14,8a,9-10)

- P: Yahweh is great and certainly worthy of praise.
- C: For God, our God, is our defender forever.
- P: We heard about God's mighty deeds, and within His presence:
- C: we reflect on your loyal love, O God.
- P: The praise You receive as far away as the ends of the earth is worthy of your reputation, O God.
- C: For God, our God, is our defender forever.
- P: Selah...let now us pause in His presence....
 In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

personal Name of God the Father in Hebrew, often translated simply as "LORD".

"Yahweh" is the

Confession of Sins (based on Psalm 42:1-2,5,8,11)

- P: As a deer longs for streams of water,
- C: so I long for you, O God!

I thirst for God, for the living God.

When will I be able to go and appear in God's presence?

- P: Why are you discouraged in your soul? Why are you upset? Wait for God!
- C: But I know my sinfulness.

I feel as if I am separated from God's presence.

- P: Why are you discouraged in your soul? Why are you upset? Wait for God!
- C: But I am overwhelmed by my sinfulness.

When will I be able to go and appear in God's presence?

- P: By day the LORD decrees His loyal love, through the Gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ, and by night He gives you a song, a prayer to the God of your life.
- C: Through the cross and resurrection,

I will again give thanks to my God for His saving intervention.

Father, reveal Your light and Your faithfulness.

They will lead me; they will escort me back to Your holy presence.

Then I will go to the altar of God, who gives me great joy.

- P: Wait for God and His salvation.
- C: Then I will again give thanks to my God for His saving intervention.
- P: Selah...We pause in His presence,
- C: remembering our sins and our need for the Lord's forgiveness.

(silent meditation)

Absolution (Declaration of Forgiveness) (based on Psalm 49:7,9,15)

P: Certainly no one can redeem another person from their sin;

no one can pay God an adequate ransom price

so that they might continue to live forever and not experience death.

But God Himself will rescue your life from the power of the grave;

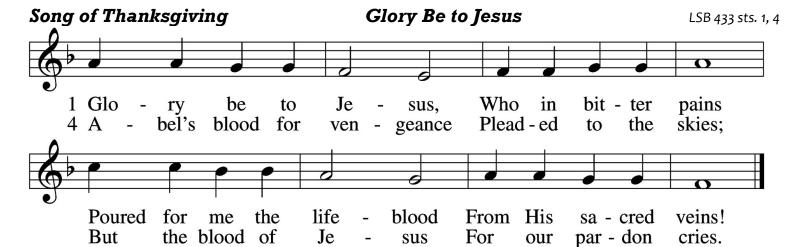
Jesus Christ took on flesh, paid the price with His own life,

so that you will continue to live forever even after death.

Certainly He will pull you to safety, rescuing you from your sin.

Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



The Upper Room Gospel Reading

Mark 14:12-26 (ESV)

¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, [Jesus'] disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." ¹⁶And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." ¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹For 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."

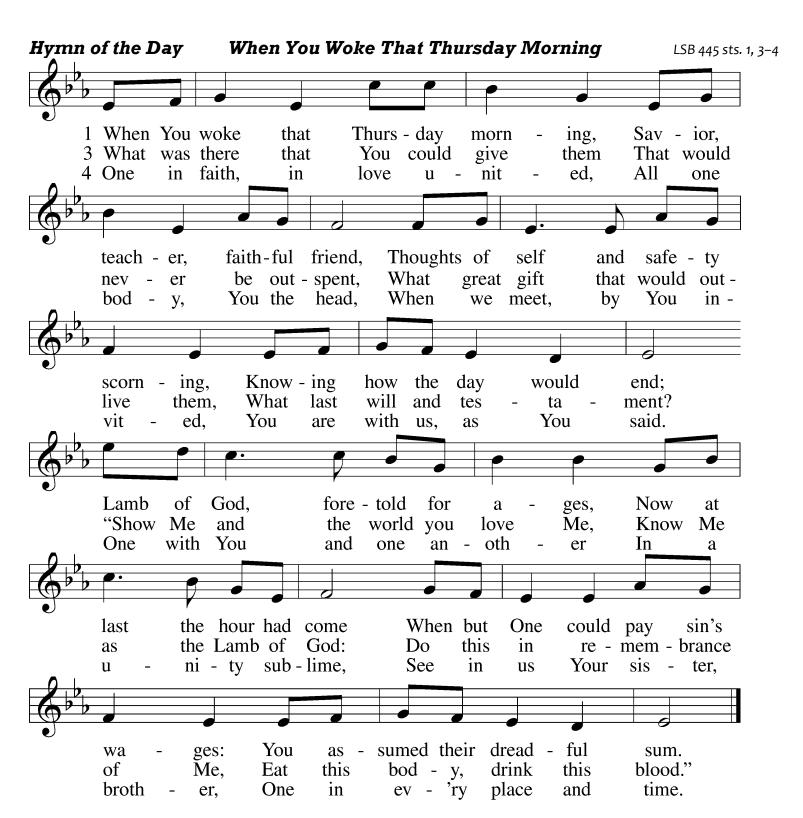
²²And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

P: This is the Gospel the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Collect (Prayer of the Day)

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.



The Garden of Gethsemane Gospel

Mark 14:26-42 (ESV)

²⁶And [after supper] when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' ²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ²⁹Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." ³⁰And Jesus said to him,

"Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." ³¹But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

³²And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." ³⁵And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." ³⁷And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

P: This is the Gospel the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Confession of Faith (Based on the Apostles' Creed & Psalms 78:3-4, 77:11-14, 79:9,13) (spoken in unison)

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What we have heard and learned—

the things our ancestors have told us—

we will not hide from our descendants.

We will tell the next generation about the LORD's praiseworthy acts, about His strength and the amazing things He has done.

And we believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

We will remember the works of the LORD.

Yes, we will remember the amazing things You did long ago.

We will think about all that You have done; we will reflect upon Your deeds.

O God, Your deeds are extraordinary.

What god can compare to our great God?

Who can compare to Your Son, Jesus, who took on our flesh to save us?

You are the God who does amazing things;

You have revealed Your strength among the nations.

We believe in the Holy Spirit.

Help us, O God, the One who delivers us.

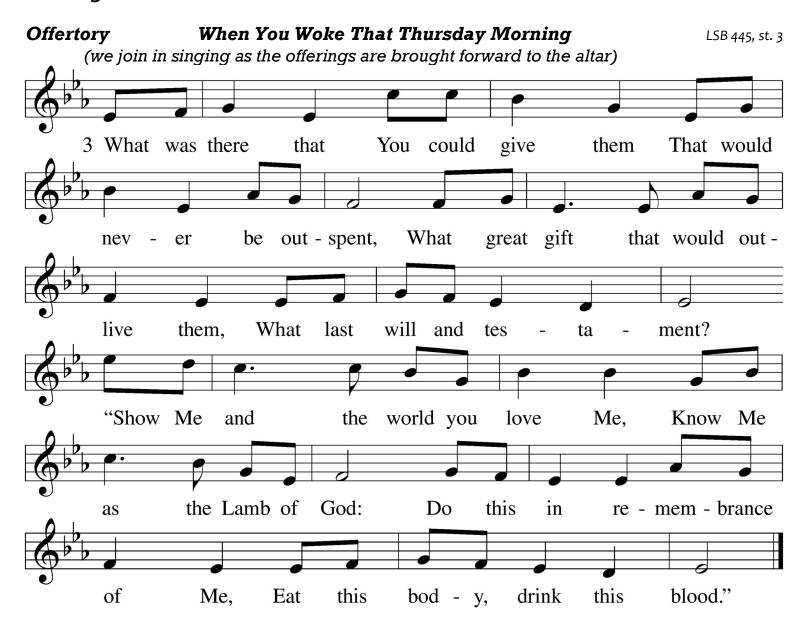
For the sake of Your glorious reputation, rescue us.

May we, Your people, be the sheep of Your pasture,

and we will continually thank You.

We will tell the next generations about Your praiseworthy acts. Amen.

Offering



Prayers of the Church (Based on Psalms 68:4,19-20; 45:6-7a,17; 68:5-6a,9-10)

P: Sing to God! Sing praises to His name.

Exalt the One who rides on the clouds.

C: For Yahweh is His name.

Rejoice before Him.

P: The Lord deserves praise.

Day after day He carries our burden, the God who delivers us.

Selah...pause in His presence.

(we offer our silent thanks to God)

Our God is a God who delivers;

- C: Yahweh, the Lord-Over-All-Things, can rescue from death.
- P: Your throne, O God, is permanent.

The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of justice.

- C: You love justice and hate evil.
- P: We will proclaim Your greatness through the coming years,
- C: then the nations will praise You forever.

(we offer our silent prayers for our community, nation & world)

As the psalm declares: God is a father to the fatherless and an advocate for widows.

- C: God rules from His holy dwelling place.
- P: God settles in their own homes those who have been deserted;
- C: He frees prisoners and grants them prosperity.
- P: O God, You cause abundant showers to fall on Your chosen people.

When they are tired, You sustain them, for You live among them.

- C: You sustain the oppressed with Your good blessings, O God.
- P: (... Pastor prays for specific needs. . .)

As the psalm declares: The Lord deserves praise.

Day after day He carries our burden, the God who delivers us.

Sing to God! Sing praises to His name. Exalt the One who rides on the clouds.

C: For Yahweh is His name.

Rejoice before Him. Amen.

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ,

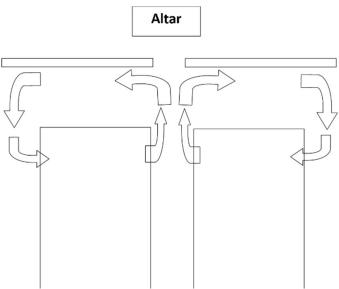
truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe,

we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.

Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you
 may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Acknowledgements

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Preface of the Lord's Supper (based on Psalm 48)

Recording (Henry Haffner)

1.

Within Your temple, Lord,
We on Your mercies dwell;
As is Your name adored,
So let Your praise excel:
Your praises sound through every land,
And right Your scepter shall command
Your scepter shall command

3.

The walls of Zion tell,
Her palaces survey,
Mark all her towers well,
And to your children say:
"Our God forever shall abide,
And He 'till death, will be our guide
'Till death, will be our guide."

2.

Let Zion's mount rejoice, Let Judah's daughters praise The Lord with cheerful voice, For judgment He displays; Go round the walls on Zion's mount, Go round her splendors to recount Her splendors to recount.

The Lord's Prayer

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

All: 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 Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. *C: And also with you.* (We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")



Distribution Anthem

I Will Remember Thee

Adult Choir

• Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

According to thy gracious word, with great humility,

This will I do, my dying Lord, I will remember Thee.

Thy body, broken for my sake,

My bread from heaven shall be.

And with Thy cup I take and drink and, thus, remember Thee.

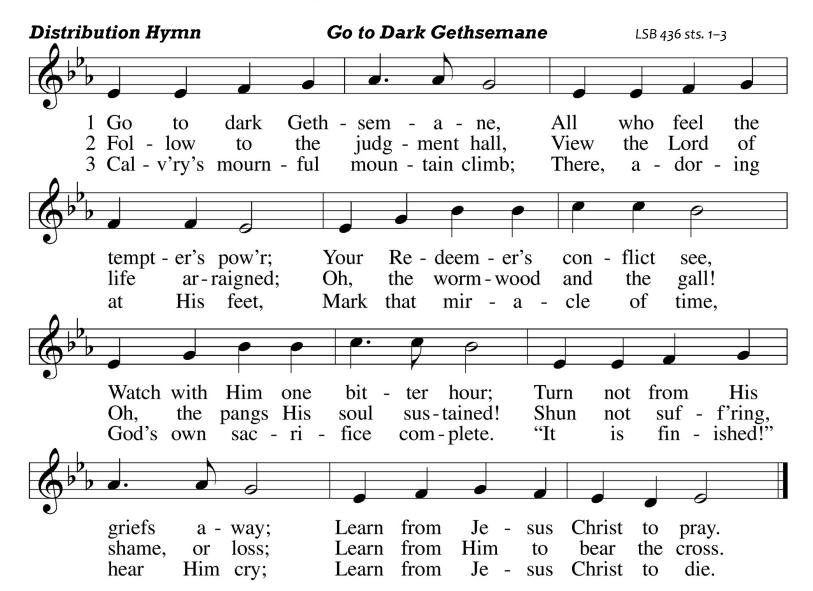
When to the cross I turn my eyes and rest on Calvary,

O Lamb of God my sacrifice, I must remember Thee.

According to thy gracious word, with great humility,

This will I do, my dying Lord, I will remember Thee.

This will I do, my dying Lord. Yes, I will remember Thee.



Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord.... C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer (based on Psalm 63:1-4a,7 (Psalm 48:14))

- P: O God, You are our God. We long for You.
- C: My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,
- P: in a dry and parched land where there is no water.
- C: But now in the sanctuary I have seen You, and witnessed Your power and splendor.
- P: We have experienced Your loyal love in this Sacrament, which is better than life itself,
- C: For this reason I will praise You while I live; For God, our God, is our defender forever. Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

The Lord went out that night with His disciples, singing a hymn. But He went out to be betrayed, arrested, and put on trial. We remove the altar furnishings in preparation for Good Friday's stark reminder of His death on the cross for us.



Benediction (Blessing) (based on Psalm 46:1-3,10-11)

P: God is your strong refuge; he is truly your helper in times of trouble.

For this reason we do not fear when the earth shakes, and the mountains tumble into the depths of the sea, when its waves crash and foam, and the mountains shake before the surging sea. God says to you, "Stop your striving and recognize that I am God.

I will be exalted over the nations! I will be exalted over the earth!"

The LORD of Heaven's Armies is on your side! The God of Jacob is your stronghold in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

You may remain in the sanctuary for silent reflection and prayer, exiting at your own pace. We leave in silence out of remembrance of what Jesus set out to do on this night. You may gather in the Fellowship Hall for conversation. Pastor Squires will come there after all have exited if you were hoping to speak with him tonight.

Announcements