



Union Lutheran Church

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Maundy Thursday

April 6, 2023

10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Please enter quietly.

OUR MISSION:

*Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven ~ Traditionally-Grounded ~
Congregationally Focused (Matthew 28:18-20)*

OUR VISION:

One Relationship at a Time

BE OUR GUEST

Can't wait to see what God can do!



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Please stand when indicated by *)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal
With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

As you prepare for worship, we invited you to be seated quietly and use a moment to reflect on Psalm 16.

Psalm 16:12-19

¹²I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

¹³Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his servants.

¹⁴O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁵I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving*
and call upon the name of the Lord.

¹⁶I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,

¹⁷In the courts of the Lord's house,
In the midst of you, O Jerusalem, Hallelujah!

¹⁸I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹In the courts of the house of the Lord
in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

Prelude: *Go To Dark Gethsemane* (Bloedow)

* Brief Order for Confessions & Forgiveness

P As often as we eat of the bread and drink of the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Therefore, let us examine ourselves, that we may eat of the bread and drink of the cup, receiving in faith the grace of God which is poured out upon us through this holy supper. *(Based on 1 Corinthians 11:27-28)*

Silence for self-reflection and examination

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Lost in our own selfish concerns, we have often failed to consider the needs of those around us. We pray that you would open our eyes to one another, and strengthen the communion we share as fellow members of the body of Christ. Amen

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. For here in the Sacrament, you receive from Christ's lips the forgiveness of sins, which contains and conveys God's grace and Spirit with all his gifts, protection, defense, and power. *(From Luther's Large Catechism)*

C Amen

* Prayer of the Day

P O Lord God, you left to us a wonderful sacrament, a memorial of your passion. Grant, we beseech you, that we may so partake of this sacrament 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.**

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 24:3-11

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

R Here ends the reading.

New Testament Lesson: Hebrews 9:11-22

¹¹But 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) ¹²he 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. ¹³For 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, ¹⁴how 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. ¹⁵Therefore 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. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For 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,²⁰ saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.”²¹ And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship.²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

R Here ends the reading.

* Lenten Verses (“Return to the Lord...”)

LBW p. 83

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 26th chapter.

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

* Holy Gospel: Matthew 26:17-30

¹⁷Now 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?”¹⁸ 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.’”¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.²⁰ When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve.²¹ And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”²² And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?”²³ He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me.”²⁴ 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.”²⁵ Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”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.”³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: *At His Table*

Pastor Heidi Punt

* Hymn: *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

LBW# 126

Confession of Faith (*From Luther's Small Catechism: Holy Communion*)

P Let us confess our faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, calling to mind the promises we are given through the Supper of our Lord.

What is Holy Communion?

C **Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink.**

P What benefits do we receive from this sacrament?

C The benefits of the sacrament are pointed out by the words, “given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words assure us that in the sacrament we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

P How can eating and drinking do all this?

C It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words “given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with eating and drinking, are the main thing in the sacrament. And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.

P: Upon this affirmation, let us now confess our faith in God and all that God has done, in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell*. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

***Or, the holy Christian Church,*

*** The Prayers**

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

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

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**

*** The Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Presentation of the Gifts

The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared. Lenten offering designated and loose offering received will go towards support of Global Missions for Mary Hutchens & Pastor Heidi Punt. During the month of April, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on the NALC Disaster Response Fund. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.

Anthem: *Lighten Our Darkness (Leaf)*

Chancel Choir

* Offertory Prayer

P Blessed are you,

C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

* Words of Institution

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C **Amen**

* The Lord's Prayer

P 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**

P Tender and merciful God at your feast you yearn to feed us who bring nothing but brokenness. You wish to turn our emptiness into joy and fill us with abundant grace. Create within us anticipation and hunger to gather at your table once again.

Communion (Mark 14:23)

As the minister gives the bread and wine, and says these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

At Union Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. For those who prefer individually sealed units please indicate. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out the connection card and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

Communion Music: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (arr. McChesney)

Beginner Bells (B'n B)

* Closing Prayer

P The meal is done. The table is cleared. The room is empty. You make your way toward Gethsemane. Lord Jesus, where soldiers will come to capture you. Keep us ever mindful, as your passion and death approach, that your self-sacrificing love is for us. In your most holy name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we pray.

C **Amen**

Stripping of the Altar (6:30 p.m.)

P Stripping the altar is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in our Lord's earthly life. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgatha and execution. As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of comfort and life to symbolize His suffering and death.

As Psalm 22 is chanted, the Chancel and Altar is stripped.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. It is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers.

As Jesus' life was stripped from him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolize his purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

Plants and Vases - New life springing forth. In recognition of Jesus' death, we remove plants and vases from the altar.

Candles - Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world." Creation was dark when Jesus suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

Offerings - As Jesus offered his body in sacrifice and was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

Missal and Stand - As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal book and stand.

Communion Vessels - Jesus' offered Body and His shed Blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As He was removed from us and placed in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

Altar Linens and Paraments - As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

Vestments - As Christ is stripped of his identity and crucified as a common criminal, we remove the vestments of the ordained.

Paschal Candle - The Paschal candle is carried from the baptismal font to the Narthex where it is extinguished. There is no benediction or postlude at the end of this service, which indicates that the service of the Three Days has not concluded.

Departure

The assembly departs in profound silence. In the evening, some find it a good custom to drive home and to go to bed without any further conversation.

Please prayerfully consider in participating tomorrow's Prayer Vigil following worship.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7
10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.

Isaiah 52; Psalm 22; Hebrews 4:14-16;
5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42
Sermon: *Where are you?*

This holy day recalls the last hours of Jesus' life as the suffering servant is nailed to the cross, fulfilling his mission as the sacrificial Lamb of God. The sinless One takes on humanity's sin as he is betrayed by his closest companions, arrested and sentenced to a shameful death, even as Pontius Pilate finds no fault in him. We see ourselves in the angry crowd and lament our own denial of our Lord.

Following the evening Good Friday service, we will have a **PRAYER VIGIL**. A prayer vigil is a watchful, awake time set apart for the purpose of prayer. As an act of public witness, it offers the community a space to connect with God so that God's vision for love and justice can be carried out through us.

Union understands prayer vigils to be grounded in the power of the Holy Spirit to change people's hearts and minds and to strengthen us in our work and witness.

If you would like to participate please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2 (p. 77-97)
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Online Worship Resource Site

Those Serving Today:

Acolyte: Sam Nguyen

Readers & Communion Assistants:

Sonya Mulkey & Jan Huffman

Pie or Cake Bake Sale
Mission Trip Fundraiser

*Calling all Cake and Pie Lovers! Union & Salem Middle/High School Youth are sponsoring a **Pie or Cake Bake Sale**. During Good Friday's Lock-In our youth will bake pies and cakes and have fresh and ready to pick up on Saturday, April 8. Proceeds will go towards the Congregational Domestic Mission Trip.*

Please support our youth by ordering through the church office: pound cake, cream cheese bars, cream cheese blueberry pie, cream cheese cherry pie, peach cobbler, or peanut butter pie.

Suggested donation is \$20 however any financial gift is much appreciated!

Easter Sunday, April 9

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

Exodus 14:10-15:1; Psalm 118:15-29;

1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-19

Youth Led Worship Service.

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Easter Service

Worship & Holy Communion

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 16:1-11;

Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

Sermon: *Resurrection People*

No Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

Linda Kesler has reserved the
Altar Flowers for Easter Sunday.