

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

As Psalm 88 is read, the altar, which represents Christ's body, is solemnly stripped in token of the Lord's abandonment by his disciples, and in preparation for Good Friday. (Consider Psalm 88 as what is going through Christ's mind in the Garden of Gethsemane.)

PSALM 88

O LORD, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before you.
May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry.
For my soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave.
I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like a man without strength.
I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care.
You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths.
Your wrath lies heavily upon me; you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.
You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them.
I am confined and cannot escape; my eyes are dim with grief.
I call to you, O LORD, every day; I spread out my hands to you.
Do you show your wonders to the dead?
Do those who are dead rise up and praise you?
Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction?
Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,
or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?
But I cry to you for help, O LORD;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
Why, O LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me?
From my youth I have been afflicted and close to death;
I have suffered your terrors and am in despair.
Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me.
All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me.
You have taken my companions and loved ones from me;
the darkness is my closest friend.

*When the organist begins playing you may leave when you are ready.
You will not be ushered out.*

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Welcome! This evening begins a special time of unhurried meditation for Christians. You will note these features of today's Maundy Thursday service:

Closing of the Lenten season: We finish the season of Lent with the sermon. The sermon comes first in this service.

Confession and Absolution: Perhaps more than any other service in the year we focus on confessing our sins, and receiving God's forgiveness in Christ through our pastor. We anticipate His forgiveness also in the Lord's Supper.

Christ's Command to Love Each Other: Maundy is from the Latin word *Maundo*, which means "to command." One of the final commands Christ gave us before His departure is "Love one another as I have loved you." Having received Christ's forgiveness we respond by expressing our love for one another in this service.

The Great Litany: The long, responsive prayer reminds us of Christ's Great High Priestly prayer (John 17) in the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday evening. As He intercedes with His Father for us and all people, we also pray for ourselves and all people.

The Lord's Supper: This is the highpoint of the evening, when Christ instituted for all time His Holy Sacrament for our salvation, and commanded (*Maundo*) us to keep on doing this in remembrance of Him. The fruit of the Sacrament is our loving service for one another.

The Stripping of the Altar: The altar represents Christ's body. It is solemnly stripped to remember how Christ was abandoned by His closest friends in the Garden of Gethsemane.

No Blessing at the End: There is no blessing because our observance of Christ's Passion continues on Good Friday.

OPENING HYMN

Lord Jesus, You Are Going Forth | red hymnal 126

Those seated on the *piano* side will sing the verses marked “Jesus.” Those seated on the *pulpit* side *and* in the *balcony* will sing the verses marked “The Soul.”

SERMON

John 15:1-5

*The Garden of Good Works**Please remain seated.***INSTRUCTION FOR THE END OF LENT**

M In this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering, which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil — all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

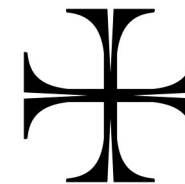
O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (*Organist will fade out*)**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.****O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.****O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.***Please be seated.***DISTRIBUTION**

Please respect our practice of “Closed Communion,” meaning we commune members of Peace and churches affiliated with Peace. For further explanation, please see the cover of this bulletin. Thank you.

CHOIR ANTHEM (7:00)*“Take and Eat”**Jr. Choir***HYMN***I Come, O Savior, To Your Table | red hymnal 310***HYMN AFTER DISTRIBUTION***This is My Will | red hymnal 497*

This hymn reminds us of the fruit produced in us by this Sacrament –that we who have communed together love each other.

During the hymn the communion vessels are removed.



with us. Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us.

C Have mercy on us.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord Jesus Christ on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Please stand.

C Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

I am truly sorry for my sins.

I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

Silence for meditation.

M Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

C Cleanse me from my sins.
Release me from my guilt.
Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

M The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

EXHORTATION

M Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

M and C: Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions toward each other.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on the cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this Sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

HYMN *The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord | red hymnal 135*

The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord,	He blotted out with his own blood
We celebrate with one accord;	The judgment that against us stood;
It is our comfort in distress,	He full atonement for us made,
Our heart's sweet joy and happiness.	And all our debt he fully paid.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 12:1-14 | pew Bible pg. 104

That this forever true shall be	His Word proclaims and we believe
He gives a solemn guarantee;	That in this supper we receive
In this his holy supper here	His very body, as he said,
We taste his love, so sweet, so near.	His very blood for sinners shed.

M Come to the help of all who are in danger, necessity, and trouble; protect all who travel by land, air, or water; and show your pity on all prisoners and captives.

C Hear us, good Lord.

M Strengthen and preserve all women who are in childbirth and all young children, and comfort the aged, the bereaved, and the lonely.

C Hear us, good Lord.

M Defend and provide for the widowed and the orphaned, the refugees and the homeless, the unemployed, and all who are desolate and oppressed.

C Hear us, good Lord.

M Heal those who are sick in body or mind, and give skill and compassion to all who care for them.

C Hear us, good Lord.

M Grant us true repentance, forgive our sins, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your Holy Word.

C Hear us, good Lord.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

M Lord Jesus, you call all who are weary and burdened to come to you for rest. Rejoicing in your grace, we now come to this heavenly feast in which you give your children on earth your true body and blood to eat and to drink. Remove from us the soiled garments of self-righteousness and sin, and clothe us with the righteousness purchased with your blood. Strengthen our faith, increase our love, especially for those with whom we share this blessed communion, and after this life grant us a place at your heavenly table.

C Hear us, good Lord.

M Son of God, you have promised through your beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in your name you will be

M Give us hearts to love and reverence you, that we may diligently live according to your commandments.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M To all your people, give grace to hear and receive your Word and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Strengthen those who stand firm in the faith, encourage the fainthearted, raise up those who fall, and finally give us the victory.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

FOR OUR COUNTRY

M Rule the hearts of your servants, the president of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Bless and defend all who strive for our safety and protection, and shield them in all dangers and adversities.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Grant wisdom and insight to those who govern us and to judges and magistrates the grace to execute justice with mercy.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

FOR ALL PEOPLE

M To all nations grant unity, peace, and concord, and to all people give clothing, food, and shelter.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Grant us abundant harvests, strength and skill to conserve the resources of the earth, and wisdom to use them well.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Enlighten with your Spirit all who teach and all who learn.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 11:23-28 | pew Bible pg. 1784

A precious food is this indeed-
It never fails us in our need-
A heav'nly manna for our soul
Until we safely reach our goal.

Oh blest is each believing guest
Who in this promise finds his rest,
For Jesus will in love abide
With those who do in him confide.

Please stand.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 13:1-15, 34 | pew Bible pg. 1673

The guest that comes with true intent
To turn to God and to repent,
To live for Christ, to die to sin,
Will thus a holy life begin.

They who his Word do not believe
This food unworthily receive,
Salvation here will never find.
May we this warning keep in mind!

Help us sincerely to believe
That we may worthily receive
Your supper and in you find rest
Amen! They who believe are blest.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Members of Peace have committed themselves to support the ministry of this church through the offering. Our guests should not feel obliged to participate. We do ask that you would sign a "guest" card from the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering plate. Thank you.

Please stand.

THE GREAT LITANY

- M** O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
C **Have mercy on us.**
M God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **Have mercy on us.**
M God the Holy Spirit, Advocate and Guide,
C **Have mercy on us.**
M Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God,
C **Have mercy on us.**

FOR DELIVERANCE

- M** Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses nor the offenses of our forebears. Spare us, good Lord; spare your people whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**
M From all spiritual blindness; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all lack of charity,
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**
M From all deadly sin and from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**
M From all false doctrine, heresy, and factions, from hardness of heart and contempt for your Word and your will,
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**
M From earthquake and tempest; from drought, fire, and flood; from civil strife and violence; from war and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

FOR RECALLING CHRIST'S SAVING WORK

- M** By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and by your proclamation of the kingdom,
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**
M By your bloody sweat and bitter grief, by your cross and suffering, and by your precious death and burial,
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**
M By your mighty resurrection, by your glorious ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**
M In our times of trouble, in our times of prosperity, in the hour of death, and on the day of judgment,
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**
M Receive our prayers, O Lord our God.
C **Hear us, good Lord.**

FOR THE CHURCH

- M** Govern and direct your holy Church, fill it with love and truth, and grant it that unity which is according to your will.
C **Hear us, good Lord.**
M Enlighten all ministers with true knowledge and understanding of your Word, that by their preaching and living they may declare it clearly and show its truth.
C **Hear us, good Lord.**
M Encourage and prosper your servants who spread the gospel in all the world, and send out laborers into the harvest.
C **Hear us, good Lord.**
M Bless and keep your people, that all may find and follow their true vocation and ministry.
C **Hear us, good Lord.**