



# Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.*

## **CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to 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 called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us  
even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power  
through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated*

Oremos. **Dios Santo, fuente de todo amor, en la noche de su traición, Jesús nos dio un nuevo mandamiento, para amarnos unos a otros como él nos ama. Escribe este mandamiento en nuestros corazones, y danos la voluntad de servir a los demás como él fue el siervo de todos, tu hijo, Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor, que vive y reina contigo y el Espíritu Santo, un Dios, ahora y para siempre. Amén.**

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

*Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. [<sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>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 lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ] <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every

firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; 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 live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

*R: I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

<sup>2</sup>**for the Lord has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the good things God has done for me?

<sup>13</sup>**I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord. R**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all God's people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in your sight, O Lord,  
is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O Lord, truly I | am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all God's people,

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. R**

### **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

*In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another, because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.*

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way he took the cup also, 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### Glory to You, O, Lord.

*The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.*

<sup>1</sup>Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <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 to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <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 tied around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

<sup>31b</sup>"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**FOOTWASHING**

*The assembly is seated*

On this night we have heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. 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. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for new life in the church, new hope for the world, and God's love for all who are in need.

*The assembly shall kneel, as they are able*

Holy One, you bow down to serve your people. By your love and mercy, shape us to reflect our Lord's self-giving example of service to others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You provide an abundance of food from your creation. Lead us into equitable ways of distribution, and gather households together, so that no one's table is lacking. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your Son washed the feet of and ate with the ones who would deny and betray him. Transform the world by reconciling enemies to one another and overcoming evil with love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You listen to the cries of your people and mercifully attend to them, especially Gilbert, Mitch, Linda, Laquita, Mary Louise, Francis, Elfren, Leroy, John, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Use us to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, heal the sick, and welcome the lonely and outcast. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter's in Elgin that they may continue the path you have shown them through continued vision and direction, as you use them as an instrument of grace in their community. We pray for St. Paul's – Karnes City and St. Paul's – Nordheim as the congregations grow their ministries through the St. Paul's Squared opportunity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With all churches in the Southwestern Texas Synod we pray for each other and also for ELCA member congregations such as those in the Southwestern Texas Synod, Faith Lutheran Church in Austin, TX, and Muhlenburg College. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You announce the promise of deliverance through the people of your first covenant. Bring joy to the Passover celebrations of our Jewish siblings, and lead us to proclaim your goodness together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You prepare a welcoming feast table for all nations. Through the witness of your saints reveal the heavenly vision to the world, and extend an invitation to everyone. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Attend to the needs of the whole world with your saving grace, and lead us all into new life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING** An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

**(ELW p. 186)**      *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives.  
As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Lasset uns beten. Gott der Herrlichkeit, Erhalten Sie diese Gaben und das Opfer unseres Lebens. Als Jesus von der Erde erhoben wurde, Zieht uns zu eurem Herzen inmitten dieser Welt, Damit alle Schöpfung von der Knechtschaft in die Freiheit, von der Finsternis in das Licht und vom Tod zum Leben gebracht wird; Durch Jesus Christus, unseren Erlöser und Herrn. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

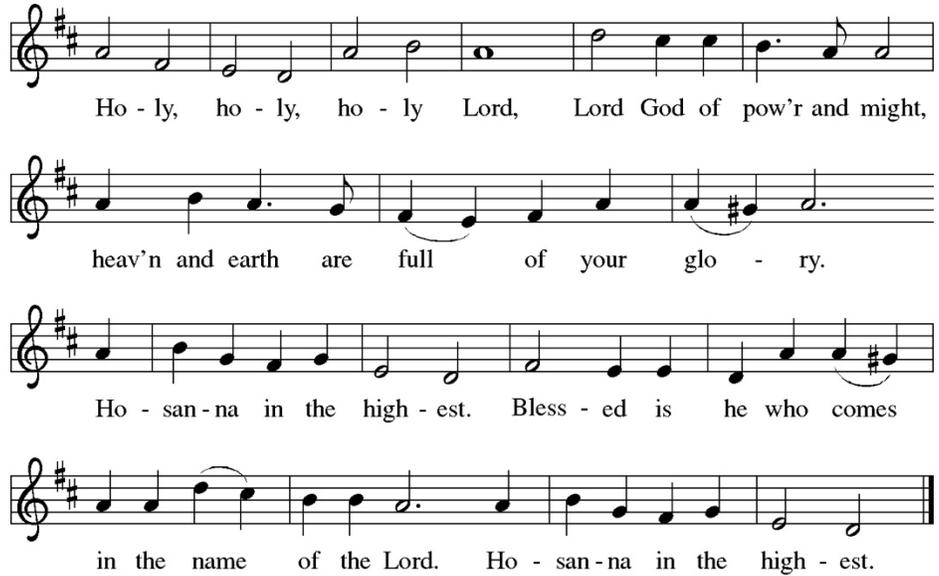
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,

whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.

You gather your people around the tree of the cross,  
transforming death into life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,  
 and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

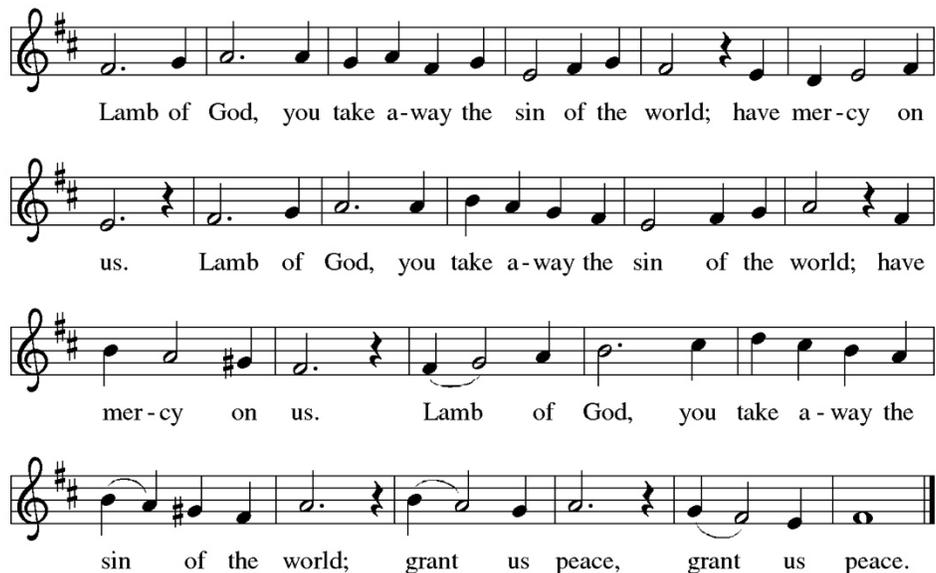
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.



## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

*This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.*

## TABLE BLESSING

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament  
you strengthen us with the saving power  
of your suffering, death, and resurrection.  
May this sacrament of your body and blood  
so work in us that the fruits of your redemption  
will show forth in the way we live,  
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

## PSALM 22

***All depart in silence.***

# Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us. **If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance**, please signal an usher.

## Coming Up

*Let's join together and PARTICIPATE*

### **Holy Week & Easter Worship Schedule**

***Good Friday Worship, April 19 – 7:30 p.m.***

#### ***Easter Celebration***

**Breakfast Potluck, Egg Hunt, Fellowship & Education – 9:00 a.m.**

**Worship – 11:00 a.m.**