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**Holy (Maundy) Thursday**

“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.’ And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, ‘This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.’” *Mark 14:22-24*

**AS WE GATHER**

In about 1498, Leonardo da Vinci completed his masterpiece “The Last Supper.” This famous painting shows Jesus seated at the table on Holy Thursday, surrounded by His twelve disciples. Although Judas the betrayer is positioned lower than the rest and darkened in features, Christ is full of light. Both the set of three windows that appear behind Jesus and the triangular shape of His body show how the triune God is made flesh in our Redeemer. All the gestures and expressions of the disciples are painted in such a way to capture the mixed moods of the night when our Lord was betrayed and handed over to death for us. Looking closely at the painting, every line is positioned in such a way to guide your eyes toward the center: Jesus, the Host of the feast, the centerpiece of da Vinci’s masterpiece! The Meal we gather to receive tonight is all about Jesus. The One who is the center of it all longs to gather His guests together to feast in His presence, both now and forevermore.

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION, CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION** *Luke 18:13*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: By means of His Word and Supper, we gather together this evening to receive our Savior’s mercy and respond to Him in thanksgiving and praise. Because of our sins of thought, word, and deed, we are spiritually bankrupt and unworthy of the grace we receive. Yet at the invitation of our loving Redeemer, we come to His Table and take our place with Him. Acknowledging our sin, let us find refuge in our God of grace and say, “God be merciful to me, a sinner.”

 *In silent prayer, we reflect on God’s Word and confess our sins to the Lord.*

Pastor: Together, let us pray:

**People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life, that we may enjoy the fullness of Your presence at the feast You have prepared for all who trust in You. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise again for you so that you may be redeemed and restored. You have been invited to the eternal banquet, the heavenly feast, where our Savior and Host delights us with the richest of fare, the forgiveness of sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a servant of Christ and your pastor, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”* (*LSB* 435)

**COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in this sacred Meal You have left us a remembrance of Your suffering and death for our salvation. As we eat with You in the kingdom of God, grant that our hearts and minds may be turned to You alone; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Exodus 24:3-11

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 14:12-14

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** *“O Lord, We Praise Thee”* (*LSB* 617)

**SERMON *“Hey, It’s Not About Me!”***

**THE NICENE CREED** (*LSB*,back inside cover)

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

 **People: hear our prayer.**

**OFFERING**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”* (*LSB* 618)

*“Go to Dark Gethsemane”* (*LSB* 436)

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 18:1-11

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

[*As members of the altar guild and elders remove all items and paraments from the altar and chancel, and Psalm 22 is heard, the congregation remains silent. Following this work and psalm, the worship service is concluded remembering that by the time we gather tomorrow evening at 7:00 pm, our Savior’s body will be already entombed after His death. Tonight, we leave in silence.*]