**Holy (Maundy) Thursday**

**A Lenten Journey with Joseph**

“He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

**AS WE GATHER**

As we have journeyed with Joseph throughout this Lenten season and witnessed the Lord’s presence and work through him, we’re continually pointed to a greater foreshadowing of God’s promise fulfilled through a Savior. Though much evil took place in Joseph’s life, he was compelled in faith to say, “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today” (Genesis 50:20). In the same way on this Maundy Thursday, we are exposed to much evil. Jesus is delivered into the hands of sinful men, is beaten, is crucified, is deserted, and died. But like with Joseph, God meant it for good, that we be alive today with the forgiveness and payment for our sins, which He endured for us. Jesus was right when He proclaimed from the cross, “It is finished.” And by that finished work, our new life in Him begins and continues.

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION and INTROIT** *Psalm 116:1–4; antiphon: v. 5*

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

**People: I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

Pastor: Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

**People: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.**

Pastor: Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”

**People: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

**CONFESSION**

Pastor: People of God, we struggle against sin, death, and the power of the devil. We have intensified the struggle begun at Baptism to daily die with Christ and also to rise daily in Christ to live anew. In this struggle we have been reminded again that we are weak and Christ is strong. We need the forgiveness of our sins in order to live as the people God has called us to be.

 *A time of silence is observed.*

Pastor: Assured of God’s love for us through our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sin against God and our neighbors, so that we enter these three days, so central to our faith, reconciled to God and to one another.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

**CATECHISM** Christian Questions with Their Answers(*LSB* pg. 329-330)

**CORPORATE ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 103:11–13*

Pastor: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** *“Sing, My Tongue the Glorious Battle”* (*LSB* 454)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** *“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”* (*LSB* 434)

**SERMON READING** Genesis 50:15-21

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON *“Forgiveness Finished”***

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

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

*(after each petition):* Pastor: We are forgiven,

 **People: It is finished.**

**OFFERING**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**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.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“What Wondrous Love Is This”* (*LSB* 543)

*“Go to Dark Gethsemane”* (*LSB* 436)

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

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.*]