



Holy Week & The Triduum Sacrum

The Church views Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil as one continuous service: The **Triduum Sacrum** ("The Sacred Three Days" in Latin). These three days are seen together as the three days of Jesus' death and resurrection, ending on the third day: the Resurrection of Our Lord!

Maundy Thursday is celebration of the Lord instituting His own Body and Blood under the bread and wine for Christians to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of their sins. The first word in "Maundy Thursday" should not be pronounced like "Monday Thursday" but is a reference to the Latin word *mandatum*: "command." Jesus' new commandment, "Take eat!", shows us that by receiving of the Lord's Body and Blood, all people will know who the Lord's disciples are (Matthew 26:26-29 & John 13:34-35). This is the institution of the divine service for the Church to celebrate for all time. Maundy Thursday ends with the stripping of the altar, just as Our Lord Jesus was stricken, smitten, and afflicted on the way to the cross.

Good Friday brings contemplative prayer and a restrained yet joyful focus on the crucifixion of Jesus: God offered Himself up as the once-for-all sacrifice, as fulfillment of the Old Testament priest and also sacrificial lamb. The **Tre Ore** is the chief reflection on the sufferings, wounds, cross, and death of Jesus Christ. It includes the St. John Passion, the reproaches of Jesus against His people, and the veneration of the cross. The **Tenebrae** is a service done in darkness with only a few candles, and it is a targeted look at the seven last sayings of Jesus on the cross. The Tenebrae ends with the *strepitus*, the loud noise indicating the nails through Jesus' hands and feet into the cross and also indicating the closing of Christ into the tomb.

Easter Vigil is a beautiful confession and finish to the Triduum Service, often taking place late on Saturday night. This service starts in darkness with the lighting of the paschal candle. While Maundy Thursday ends with movement from light into darkness, and the Good Friday is done in darkness, the historical confession of the Vigil is a movement from darkness into light! The Vigil is a continuation of the prior two days, but is also the first moment of Easter joy! With the the Lord's crucifixion and resurrection in view, the height of the Easter Vigil is the Lord's Supper announced with the ancient versicle: "Alleluia! He is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" This is the place and time when the first proclamation of Christ's resurrection is given. The Service is comprised of six parts: (1) Service of Light, (2) Service of Readings, (3) Service of Holy Baptism, (4) Service of Prayer, (5) Service of the Word, and (6) Service of Holy Communion. The rationale for having it in the evening is because God created the pattern for days by saying "evening and morning, the first day." Thus, the Church observes that a day starts at sundown (i.e. evening, not morning). It's the same with Christmas Eve being the same day as Christmas Day, with All Hallow's Eve being same as All Saints Day, and Maundy Thursday (evening) being the same as Good Friday Tre Ore (noon), since the next day does not start until the next sundown. Likewise, Easter Vigil is the evening before Easter Sunday, but is the first day of Easter Season. This year, we are invited to celebrate the Easter Vigil at Mount Zion!

The Order of Divine Service for

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17, 2025

4:00 and 6:30 pm

✠ In Nomine Iesu ✠

The Prelude

Jesus, Greatest at the Table
Michael D. Costello

Opening Hymn

Jesus, Greatest at the Table LSB 446

Corporate Confession and Absolution

LSB 290

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 189

The Anthem (6:30)
sung by the choir

Return to the Lord
Kenneth T. Kosche

Return to the Lord, your God. The Lord is gracious and merciful and abounding in steadfast love.

The Old Testament Reading

Exodus 24:3-11

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the just decrees. 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.

¶ This is the Word of the Lord.

☛ Thanks be to God.

The Gradual (6:30)
sung by the choir

Psalm 111:4-5
setting by Matthew Machemer

He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;
The LORD is gracious and merciful.
He provides food for those who fear Him;
He remembers His covenant forever.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:20-32

²⁰When you come together, it is not the Lord’s supper that you eat. ²¹For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. ²²What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

¶ This is the Word of the Lord.

☛ Thanks be to God.

Tract

Psalm 111:4–5; John 6:55-56


The congregation chants the verses in **bold** print

He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered;
the Lord is gracious and | merciful.
He provides food for those who | fear him;
he remembers his covenant for- | ever.
My flesh is true food, and my blood is | true drink.
Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and | I in him.

The Holy Gospel

John 13:1-15, 34-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.




G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. . . .

³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB 191

The Hymn of the Day

O Lord, We Praise Thee LSB 617

The Sermon

Receive Your Share of Christ’s Love!

The Offertory

LSB 192

The Prayer of the Church

LSB 193

Liturgy of Holy Communion

LSB 194

Distribution Hymns

LSB 634, 618, 619, 630, 636

The Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

The Post Communion Collect

LSB 201

There is no Benediction tonight because the Church views Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil as one continuous service. The service begun tonight continues tomorrow at 1:00 p.m., and then again on Saturday at 8:00 p.m. The Benediction will not be pronounced until the Resurrection of Our Lord has been proclaimed and commemorated on Saturday. At the end of the 4:00 pm service, the congregation leaves in silence, returning on the morrow for the observance of the crucifixion of our Lord.

The Stripping of the Altar

During the 6:30 pm service, while Psalm 22 is chanted, the altar is stripped of its paraments and linens. This is symbolic of the fact that after Holy Thursday and before His crucifixion, our Lord was stripped of His clothes. He was stripped naked that we who are naked in our sins might be clothed with His righteousness. Psalm 22 rehearses the humiliation of Christ at the hand of the soldiers as well as other themes of the Passion.

*The congregation chants the verses in **bold print***

- ¹My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?*

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my | groaning?
- ²**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not | answer,***

and by night, but I | find no rest.
- ³Yet you are | holy,*

enthroned on the praises of | Israel.
- ⁴**In you our fathers | trusted;***

they trusted, and you de- | livered them.
- ⁵To you they cried and were | rescued;*

in you they trusted and were not | put to shame.

⁶But I am a worm and | not a man,*
scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.
⁷**All who see me | mock me;***
they make mouths at me; they | wag their heads;
⁸“He trusts in the LORD; let him de- | liver him;*
let him rescue him, for he de- | lights in him!”
⁹**Yet you are he who took me | from the womb;***
you made me trust you at my | mother’s breasts.
¹⁰On you was I cast | from my birth,*
and from my mother’s womb you have | been my God.
¹¹**Be not far from me, for trouble | is near,***
and there is | none to help.

¹²Many bulls en- | compass me;*

strong bulls of Bashan sur- | round me;

¹³**they open wide their | mouths at me,***
like a ravening and roaring | lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are | out of joint;*

my heart is like wax; it is melted with- | in my breast;

¹⁵**my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks | to my jaws;***
you lay me in the | dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs en- | compass me;*

a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my | hands and feet—

¹⁷**I can count | all my bones—***
they stare and gloat | over me;

¹⁸they divide my garments a- | mong them,*

and for my clothing they | cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be | far off!*

O you my help, come quickly | to my aid!

²⁰**Deliver my soul | from the sword,***
my precious life from the power | of the dog!

²¹Save me from the mouth of the | lion!*

You have rescued me from the horns of the wild | oxen!

²²**I will tell of your name to my | brothers;***
in the midst of the congregation I will | praise you:

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glo- | rify him,*

and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of | Israel!

²⁴**For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his |**
face from him,*
but has heard, when he | cried to him.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congre- | gation;*

my vows I will perform before those who | fear him.

²⁶**The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall | praise the LORD!***
May your hearts live for- | ever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD,*

and all the families of the nations shall worship be- | fore you.

²⁸**For kingship belongs | to the LORD,***
and he rules over the | nations.

²⁹All the prosperous of the earth eat and | worship;*

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep him- | self
alive.

³⁰**Posterity shall | serve him;***
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;

³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people | yet unborn,*

that he has | done it.

Christ’s humiliation for us incites us to true humility in our lives. After the stripping of the altar, the congregation leaves in silence, returning on the morrow for the observance of the crucifixion of our Lord.

✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠		
The Participants		
The Celebrant	Rev. Brennick Christiansen	
The Organist and Choir Director	Mr. Stephen P. Johnson	
The Choir (6:30)	Festival Choir	

Holy Week Services		
April 17	Maundy Thursday	4:00 & 6:30 p.m.
April 18	Good Friday Tre Ore	1:00 p.m.
	Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers	6:30 p.m.
April 19	Easter Vigil at Mt. Zion	8:00 p.m.
April 20	The Resurrection of Our Lord	8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated today. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we follow the historic Christian practice of closed communion. According to the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11, only those who share the same outward confession of faith join us at the altar. Members of other LC-MS congregations are welcome, but we ask that you please see the pastor before communing. If you arrive too late to do this before the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor after the service.