

Holy Thursday  
*A New Covenant Buries an Old  
Contract*

# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church | Jordan, Minnesota

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April 17, 2025

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service, we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God’s holy and powerful word and celebrate his life-giving sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him.

## TODAY’S THEME

On Thursday of Holy Week, Jesus began to execute the terms of the New Covenant. This New Covenant replaced an old one and was fundamentally different from it in every way. While the Old Covenant was more like a contract, the New Covenant is more like a will. The old offers rewards in return for work; the new makes unconditional and lasting promises. The old will always leave us starving in our relationship with God; the new satisfies the deepest hunger of our soul. This is precisely why Jesus connected this new covenant with a special meal. To an uninformed outsider, the Lord’s Supper looks like a poor snack—a bite of bread and sip of wine. But the followers of Christ understand that this holy food provides all the blessings of the new covenant.

## CLOSE COMMUNION

Following the guidance of Scripture, we invite those who are members of this congregation or one of our sister WELS congregations to join us as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper this morning. Those who are members of other church bodies are asked to speak with the pastor before attending the Lord’s Supper. With this practice, it is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God’s Word. Thank you for respecting our practice regarding the Lord’s Supper.

**Pastor**.....Jeremy Glowicki  
**Organist**.....Noah Helke

# Holy Thursday Confessional Rite

## 394 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

CW 394

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Confession**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, 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 one another. 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. We should not doubt this absolution 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, first instituted on this night, 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.

As we begin the solemn celebration of our Lord's passion, let us confess our sins to him, receive his absolution, and be reconciled to God and each other in Christian love.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

**Amen.**

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

**Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.**

# 911 God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises

CW 911 sts. 1-2



1 God, we sing your glo - rious prais - es as we  
2 We re - mem - ber, Lord, your cov'nant, which ex -



tell your awe - some deeds; you have fash - ioned  
tends from heav'n to earth: how Christ's death and



all cre - a - tion, and you meet each crea - ture's needs.  
res - ur - rec - tion con - quers sin, re - news our birth.



We re - jice in how your peo - ple tast - ed  
Thank you for this gos - pel mes - sage, which in -



your great faith - ful - ness; graced through ev - 'ry  
spires your Church to preach grace to ev - 'ry



gen - er - a - tion, we your might - y acts pro - fess.  
gen - er - a - tion in our deeds and in our speech.

Text: Bert Polman, 1945-2013, alt.

Tune: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1992

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# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

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 a 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.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Jeremiah 31:31–34*

*The Old Covenant could only modify behavior. The New Covenant transforms people's hearts and minds.*

Yes, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers, when I took them by the hand and led them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, although I was a husband to them, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD. I will put my law in their minds, and I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will each one teach his neighbor, or each one teach his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD, for I will forgive their guilt, and I will remember their sins no more.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# 116C I Will Walk in the Presence of God

*Cong. joins in the refrain*

## Verses



1 For the love of the One who has heard my cry:  
2 In the cords of my death, I was tan - gled round:  
3 God is mer - cy and grace and the sim - ple are blest:  
4 God has raised up my soul from the gates of death:  
5 What re - turn can I give for the gifts I claim?



I will walk in the pres - ence of God.  
I will walk in the pres - ence of God.  
I will walk in the pres - ence of God.  
I will walk in the pres - ence of God.  
I will walk in the pres - ence of God.



1 God has heard my dis - tress, and I shall not die:  
2 Those who seek you in an - guish shall not be bound:  
3 Raised me up in my pain, God my safe - ty and rest:  
4 God has dried all my tears and re - newed my breath:  
5 Lift the cup of sal - va - tion and praise your name:



I will walk in the pres - ence of God.  
I will walk in the pres - ence of God.  
I will walk in the pres - ence of God.  
I will walk in the pres - ence of God.  
I will walk in the pres - ence of God.

## Refrain



I will walk in the pres - ence of God



in the land, in the land of the liv - ing.  
 For the love of the One who has heard my cry:  
 I will walk in the pres-ence of God.

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## Second Reading

Hebrews 10:15–25

*Since the New Covenant perfectly satisfies our spiritual hunger, it enables us to confidently draw near to God.*

The Holy Spirit also testifies in Scripture to us, for first he said: This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, says the Lord. I will put my laws on their hearts and I will write them on their mind. Then he adds: And I will not remember their sins and their lawlessness any longer. Now where these sins are forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. Brothers, we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place through the blood of Jesus. It is a new and living way he opened for us through the curtain, that is, his flesh. We also have a great priest over the house of God. So let us approach with a sincere heart, in the full confidence of faith, because our hearts have been sprinkled to take away a bad conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. Let us hold on firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful. Let us also consider carefully how to spur each other on to love and good works. Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



Stand

## Gospel Acclamation

1 Corinthians 11:26



### Refrain



Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.



Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

### Tone



Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,



you proclaim the Lord's death un - til he comes.

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## Gospel

Luke 22:7-20

*Jesus institutes the meal of the New Covenant. In this sacrament his body and blood are the food and drink that satisfy our every spiritual need.*

The day of Unleavened Bread arrived, when it was necessary to sacrifice the Passover lamb. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go prepare the Passover for us, so that we may eat it." They said to him, "Where do you want us to prepare it?" He told them, "Just as you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters. Tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' He will show you a large, furnished upper room. Make preparations there." They went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell

you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” He took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, he took the cup after the supper, saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is being poured out for you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **659 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior**

*Men - St. 5, Women - St. 6*

### **Sermon**

*Stand*

### **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who in unity with the Father and the Son**

**is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

Lord God, heavenly Father, author of the everlasting covenant and giver of the cup of salvation,

**We gather in your presence to offer you our thanks.**

You kept your promise to establish a new covenant through the blood of Jesus.

**We are humbled that you made this covenant with us.**

Jesus gave thanks to you when he broke the bread and lifted up the cup to you.

**We give you thanks for the bread and wine, his body and blood broken and lifted up for us.**

Lord Jesus, you are both Priest and sacrifice, we are filled with awe and amazement as we eat this meal of your body, broken for us, and your blood, shed for us.

**We remember your death in our place ever time we partake of this meal.**

We come to your table with nothing to offer you, no excuse for our sin.

**Through your sacrament of the New Testament, we are given assurance that our sins are forgiven and no longer remembered.**

Holy Spirit, dwell within us as we remember our Lord's death in this sacrament. Strengthen our faith and fill us with gratitude for your great mercy.

**Move us by this gift to love one another and do those things which please you.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Help us to learn the lesson Jesus teaches as he washes the disciples feet.

**Empower us to love and serve each other with great humility. Amen.**

## **Offering**

During the offering, please fill out the Friendship Register in the pew and pass it down to those sitting next to you.

## **The Sacrament**

*Stand*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Sanctus – Holy, Holy, Holy

CW1074

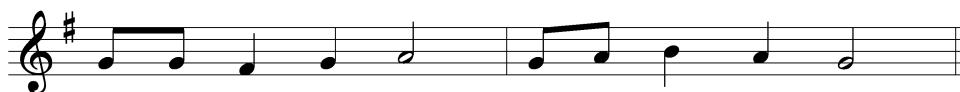
*Tune: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM*



1 Round God's throne on high      blaz - ing   an - gels cry,   sing - ing,  
2 Blest be Da - vid's Son!      In God's name he comes,   grace and



“Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, we praise you for your glo - ry,  
par - don to pro - vide us. Sing, “Ho - san - na in the high - est!”



shin - ing bright - ly forth,      fill - ing heav'n and earth.”  
Je - sus, hear our plea:      come and set us free!

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Adam Drese

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## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## Words of Institution

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Agnus Dei – Lamb of God

CW 1075

*Tune: MERRIAL*



- 1 Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Christ, who takes a - way
- 2 Je - sus, in your mer - cy, make us pure with - in;
- 3 Let your end - less mer - cy ev - er - more in - crease;



all the world's trans - gres - sions, lis - ten as we pray:  
cleanses us by your per - fect sac - ri - fice for sin.  
com - fort us with par - don, calm us with your peace.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Joseph Barnby

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*Be seated*

## Distribution

### 417 It Was a Dark and Dismal Night

CW 417

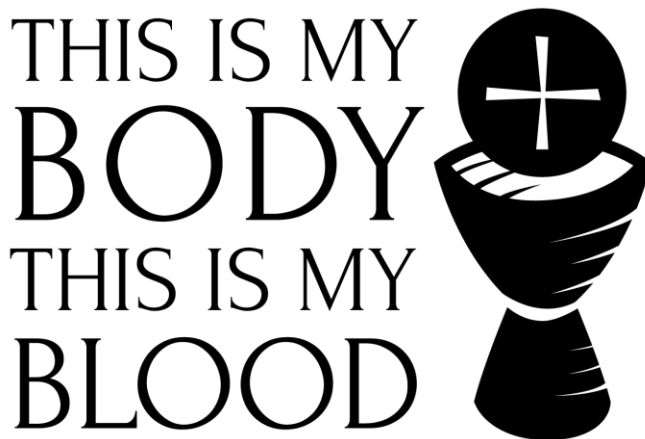
*Stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**





# Holy Thursday: Stripping of the Altar

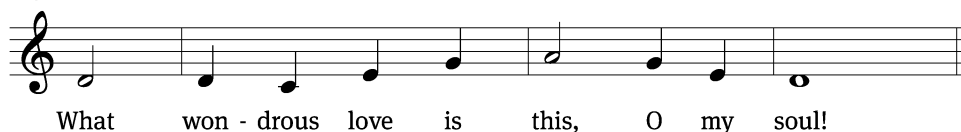
*The altar is stripped of its appointments to symbolize that Jesus was abandoned by those following him and left to do alone what only he could do: go to the cross to atone for our sins. The stark altar forms a stunning contrast with Easter as the altar is decorated in full to celebrate Jesus' resurrection, the sign that we are forgiven saints of God.*

*In Psalm 88 we can hear the cry of the Messiah at the moment the day transitions from Thursday to Friday and his friends abandon him to death. "Death is my closest friend."*

## What Wondrous Love

Psalm 88C

### Refrain



### Tone



LORD, you are the God who / saves me;  
day and night I cry / out to you.  
May my prayer come be- / fore you;  
turn your ear / to my cry.  
I am overwhelmed with / troubles  
and my life draws / near to death. *Refrain*

Your wrath has swept / over me;  
your terrors have de- / stroyed me.  
You have taken from me friend and / neighbor—  
darkness is my / closest friend.  
But I cry to you for / help, LORD;  
in the morning my prayer comes be- / fore you.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, ed. Stith Mead, alt. (refrain)  
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, ed. William Walker  
Setting: Bryan Gerlach  
Tune: Public domain  
Setting: © 2004 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727266

*The minister exits in silence. There is no blessing. The blessing for these Holy Three Days will come at their completion as we celebrate the Festival of the Resurrection.*

*Worshippers may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly when ready.*

## **Acknowledgments**

Setting Ten (Evening) from Christian Worship

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Good Friday – April 18 – 7 pm

## A One-Time Substitute Buries All-Time Guilt

On Good Friday we remember the crucifixion and death of our Lord both with sorrow and solemn joy. Though the events of this day fill us with horror, the implications of those events give us every reason for praise. Jesus' death had this breathtaking significance. Once and for all, it paid for the guilt of all of us and for all of time. Standing in our place, our substitute was forsaken by his Father on the cross so that we could be reconciled to God and have an eternal home in heaven. We look at Jesus on the cross, and there is sorrow. He is there because of us. He is there because he loves us that much, so much he gave us his last breath. Jesus took all our guilt into the tomb with him. It will stay there. He will not. That is why we can call this Friday good.

# Easter Sunday Schedule

Easter Dawn with Holy Communion- 6:30 am

Easter Breakfast - 7:30 am

The Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord - 9 am



## Because He Lives We Have a Whole New Identity

In the darkness before dawn, the women walked to the tomb with heavy hearts. Jesus was dead. His mission was over. In their mind, they were feeble followers of a failure. All that was left to do was finish embalming the corpse and then try to move on. Yet, Jesus wasn't dead. And because he lived, they were not followers of a failure at all. They were disciples of the one who had conquered sin and defeated death. It is as simple as this. Because he lives, we have a whole new identity: not sinners, but redeemed saints; not rebels, but God's chosen nation; not doomed, but saved; not only servants, but sons and daughters of God Almighty; not losers, but victorious, because Christ gives us the victory. The living Lord has given us a whole new identity. It is all because of him. It is all because he lives.