

# HOLY THURSDAY

A New Covenant—for You!

April 17, 2025



## AS WE GATHER

Unless you live in a homeowners' association (HOA), you may go through life without hearing much about covenants. The covenants in an HOA are mutually agreed upon standards for those who live in that community. God offers a new and better covenant to us. The validity of this new covenant does not rest on us and what we do. God's covenant fully rests on Jesus, who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving up His life for the sins of the world. Because of Jesus, God forgives us, and He gives us confidence, comfort, and hope. We experience God's forgiveness tonight as we gather at our Lord's Table.

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

## INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: **I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;**

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

People: **Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our transgressions and sins to the Lord, our God, in the presence of one another.

People: **When we look into the mirror of Your perfect law, we are reminded that we are no better than our ancestors. We rebel against You like the Israelites on the way to the Promised Land. We are like King David, committing sins we think no one will know about. You know us. You know our transgressions and sins against You and one another. We humbly come to You seeking forgiveness. Sprinkle our hearts and make them clean. Forgive our sins by the blood of Jesus that was given and shed for us. Renew a right spirit within us for Jesus' sake.**

Pastor: Blessed people of God, you have confessed your transgressions to the Lord. He forgives your iniquity and will remember your sin no more. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

☩ **WORD** ☩

**INTROIT**

*Psalm 116:1–4; antiphon: v. 5*

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;**

Pastor: I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the LORD:

**People: “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”**

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

**KYRIE**

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our hearts and with all our minds, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the Holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, on this night You poured out the new covenant in Your blood. Grant that we may so receive the mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Jeremiah 31:31–34*

(God promises He will make a new covenant with His people.)

<sup>31</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup>not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **GRADUAL**

*Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a*

Pastor: Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

People: **Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.**

Pastor: He sent redemption to His people;

People: **He has commanded His covenant forever.**

## **EPISTLE**

*Hebrews 10:15–25*

(The new covenant gives us confidence, comfort, and hope because of Jesus.)

<sup>15</sup>The Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

<sup>16</sup>“This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, declares the Lord:  
I will put my laws on their hearts,  
and write them on their minds,”

<sup>17</sup>then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **VERSE**

Lector: Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Luke 22:7–20*

(Jesus pours out His blood of the new covenant for us at His Table.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.” <sup>9</sup>They said to him, “Where will you have us prepare it?” <sup>10</sup>He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters <sup>11</sup>and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ <sup>12</sup>And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.” <sup>13</sup>And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>14</sup>And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup>For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” <sup>17</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. <sup>18</sup>For I tell you that from now

on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”<sup>19</sup> And 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.”<sup>20</sup> And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### ***SERMON***

**CREED** *Nicene Creed*

**People:** **I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, on this night we remember how You rescued Your people from slavery in Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. We are reminded of how You have rescued us from slavery to sin and are bringing us to Your heavenly kingdom. Nourish our faith and lead us to walk in Your ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You made covenants with Your people throughout the centuries. Yet, in these last days, You have made a new covenant with us through Your Son. Make this covenant known among us and all peoples of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You humbled Yourself and took on the role of a servant when You washed Your disciples' feet. You commanded them to love one another just as You loved them. Lead us to love others as You have first loved us. Stir us up to love and good works. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Holy Lord, as we come to Your Table, forgive our sins through Your body and blood and wrap us in the robe of Your righteousness that covers all our sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things; redeem us, O Lord, faithful God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

(We join with Christians all over the world in worshipping God through the giving of our financial resources. If you are a first-time visitor, you are our guest and we do not expect you to give an offering. For members and friends, the ministry of this congregation is completely dependent upon your generous giving. Our offering is a significant act of worship.)

*Offering plates are located in the narthex for those wishing to give an offering*

## OFFERTORY



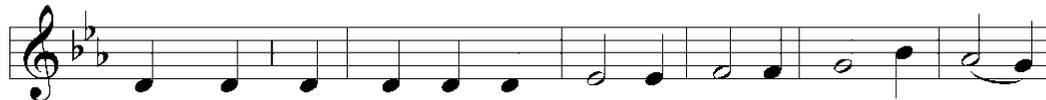
**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## ✧ SACRAMENT ✧

### PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, our God, King of the universe, for You made a covenant with Your people, Israel, when You rescued them from Egypt. In these last days, You sent Your Son to be the mediator of a new covenant, sealing it with His precious blood, which is given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

LSB 161

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of creation, for You made a new covenant with Your people in these last days wherein You promise to remember our sins and lawless deeds no more because of the blood of Jesus, our great priest.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us the ability to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

People: **Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\times$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\times$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**People:** 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.

## **PAX DOMINI**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**People:** Amen.

## **AGNUS DEI**

☐ Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

### **Nunc Dimittis**

☐ Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry  
people:  
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

Pastor: After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane; betrayal by Judas; arrest, mock trial, painful beating; the trudge to Golgotha and execution.

Jesus' offered body and His shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the bread and wine in the sacred mystery that is the Sacrament. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

*Communion vessels are removed.*

Pastor: The cross is where Jesus took on our punishment to be able to give us the gift of heaven. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). As this statement was fulfilled on the cross, the cross is removed from the altar area.

*The cross is removed.*

Pastor: The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand and its book.

*The missal stand and altar book are removed.*

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). The events at Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the light of the world. As creation was dark while He suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

*All candles are extinguished and removed.*

Pastor: Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus, in

human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

*The offerings are removed.*

Pastor: The altar is the place where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and Meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade, materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

*The altar cloths and paraments are removed.*

*All may exit silently.*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.  
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## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES SCHEDULE**

**April 18, Good Friday**  
12:10 pm and 7:00 pm

**April 20, Easter**  
8:00 pm Sunrise Service (Cemetery)  
10:00 am Divine Service  
Post Service Easter Egg Hunt