

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Hymn 407, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

M: O Lord, open my lips.

C: **And my mouth shall declare your praise.**

M: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: **O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson: 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.

Psalm 116B (*See Bulletin insert*)

Epistle Lesson: 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.

Verse of the Day: Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Gospel Lesson: 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.

Hymn 395, “What Grace Is This!”

Sermon: Psalm 51:10-13 Renewed Through the Gospel

Prayer of the Church

The Communion Liturgy, page 165 in *Christian Worship*

Hymn 677, “The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord”

The Blessing

Hymn 402, vv. 1-3, “Glory Be to Jesus”

