

## Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution

### *Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** I will go to the altar of God,

**C** to God my exceeding joy.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

### *Sit*

**P** During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other. Since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night when He instituted this blessed meal for our salvation, it is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently examining ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. This holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you."

It is as if He said, “I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat.”

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Again, it is as if He said, “I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink.”

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. As our Lord on this night exemplified this love by washing His disciples’ feet, so we by our words and actions serve one another in love. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with the wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

**C** Amen.

**P** Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

*Kneel/Stand*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.  
**C** Amen.
- P** Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?  
**C** Yes.
- P** Let it be done for you as you believe.
- P** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.
- P** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.  
**C** Amen.

*When all have been absolved, they may greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you."*

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray.

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred 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.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 12:1–14*

#### The Passover

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup>And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup>and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

<sup>7</sup>“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup>And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 116:12–19; antiphon: v. 17*

<sup>12</sup>What shall I render | to the LORD\*  
for all his bene- | fits to me?

<sup>13</sup>I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation\*  
and call on the name | of the LORD,

<sup>14</sup>I will pay my vows | to the LORD\*  
in the presence of all his | people.

<sup>15</sup>Precious in the sight | of the LORD\*  
is the death | of his saints.

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, I am your | servant,\*  
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.  
You have | loosed my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving\*  
and call on the name | of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup>I will pay my vows | to the LORD\*  
in the presence of all his | people,

<sup>19</sup>in the courts of the house | of the LORD,\*  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. | Praise the LORD!

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 11:23–32*

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

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

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Verse**

**Holy Gospel**

*John 13:1–15*

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

**Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet**

<sup>1</sup>Now 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. <sup>2</sup>During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup>rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup>Then 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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "**What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.**" <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "**If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.**" <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus 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.” <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

<sup>12</sup>When 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? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup>If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

## 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,  
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,  
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy  
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er  
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that  
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -  
geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!  
blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our  
Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy  
Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead  
blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;  
heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

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## Sermon "A Foot Washing Mentality"

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

**P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that we turn from our evil way and live. We come before You, although we have sinned and deserve only Your wrath; yet we flee to Your mercy in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who gave His body and His blood for our redemption. Lord, grant that we may ever thus believe and never waver. Grant that in such faith we may worthily come to Your altar to eat the very body and drink the true blood, which Your Son has given for our redemption. In thanksgiving, we remember and proclaim the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we place our trust. Until His return, graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

**C** 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**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Stripping of the Altar

*The communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday.*

## **Why Have You Forsaken Me?**

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?\*

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my | groaning?

<sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not | answer,\*

and by night, but I | find no rest.

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are | holy,\*

enthroned on the praises of | Israel.

<sup>4</sup>In you our fathers | trusted;\*

they trusted, and you de- | livered them.

<sup>5</sup>To you they cried and were | rescued;\*

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

<sup>6</sup>But I am a worm and | not a man,\*

scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.

<sup>7</sup>All who see me | mock me;\*

they make mouths at me; they | wag their heads;

<sup>8</sup>“He trusts in the LORD; let him de- | liver him;\*

let him rescue him, for he de- | lights in him!”

<sup>9</sup>Yet you are he who took me | from the womb;\*

you made me trust you at my | mother’s breasts.

<sup>10</sup>On you was I cast | from my birth,\*

and from my mother’s womb you have | been my God.

<sup>11</sup>Be not far from me,  
for trouble | is near,\*  
and there is | none to help.

<sup>12</sup>Many bulls en- | compass me;\*  
strong bulls of Bashan sur- | round me;

<sup>13</sup>they open wide their | mouths at me,\*  
like a ravening and roaring | lion.

<sup>14</sup>I 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;

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

<sup>16</sup>For dogs en- | compass me;\*  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my | hands and feet—

<sup>17</sup>I can count | all my bones—\*  
they stare and gloat | over me;

<sup>18</sup>they divide my garments a- | mong them,\*  
and for my clothing they | cast lots.

<sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, do not be | far off!\*  
O you my help, come quickly | to my aid!

<sup>20</sup>Deliver my soul | from the sword,\*  
my precious life from the power | of the dog!

<sup>21</sup>Save me from the mouth of the | lion!\*

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

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

<sup>23</sup>You 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!

<sup>24</sup>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.

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congre- | gation; \*  
my vows I will perform before those who | fear him.

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

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn | to the LORD, \*  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship be- | fore you.

<sup>28</sup>For kingship belongs | to the LORD, \*  
and he rules over the | nations.

<sup>29</sup>All 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.

<sup>30</sup>Posterity shall | serve him; \*  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;

<sup>31</sup>they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people | yet unborn, \*  
that he has | done it.

*All leave the church in silence.*

## **Acknowledgments**

Holy Thursday from Lutheran Service Book

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