



## **St. Luke's Lutheran Church**



4801 Anderson Ave.  
Manhattan, KS 66503  
785-539-2604  
[www.stlukesmanhattan.org](http://www.stlukesmanhattan.org)

*Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.*

**April 17, 2025 – 6:30 PM**

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor  
William Prann, Director of Christian Education  
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music*

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**(Series C)**

## WELCOME

We are glad you are here to worship our Savior with us. Please remember to turn your cell phone to silence. Restrooms are on the west side of the sanctuary. Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office through email, [office@stlukesmanhattan.org](mailto:office@stlukesmanhattan.org), or by calling 785-539-2604. On Communion Sundays, if you need non-gluten wafers at communion, or need to have communion brought to you, please notify the elder who is serving. We hope you will join us again so that you may experience Jesus.

## AS WE GATHER

Sin gets heavy. Sin can be embarrassing. We try to ignore it, cover it up, or pretend it doesn't exist. None of those things get rid of our sin or its weight on us. God doesn't minimize, excuse, or relativize sin. He places our sin on Jesus and nails it to a cross. God forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. As we come to our Lord's Table tonight, God freely forgives us through the body and blood of Christ that comes to us in, with, and under the bread and wine.

## TRIDUUM

*This service is the first part of the Triduum (from the Latin for "three days") liturgies. There will be no benediction today. Tomorrow's Good Friday service will include neither an invocation nor a benediction.*

***Please observe silence while departing.***

## IMAGE ON THE COVER

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

## WELCOME

## ✠PREPARATION✠

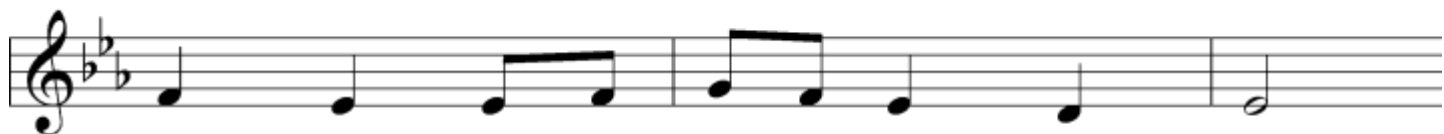
# 445 WHEN YOU WOKE THAT THURSDAY MORNING



1 When You woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior,  
 2 Nev - er so a - lone and lone - ly, Long - ing  
 3 What was there that You could give them That would  
 4 One in faith, in love u - nit - ed, All one  
 5 One day all the Church will cap - ture That bright



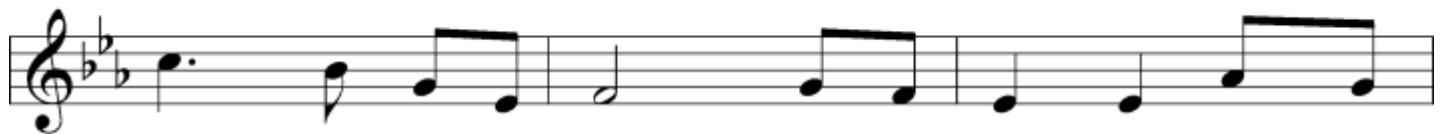
teach - er, faith - ful friend, Thoughts of self and safe - ty  
 with tor - ment - ed heart To be with Your dear ones  
 nev - er be out - spent, What great gift that would out -  
 bod - y, You the head, When we meet, by You in -  
 vi - sion glo - ri - ous, And Your saints will know the



scorn - ing, Know - ing how the day would end;  
 on - ly For a qui - et hour a - part:  
 live them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?  
 vit - ed, You are with us, as You said.  
 rap - ture That Your heart de - sired for us,



Lamb of God, fore - told for a - ges, Now at  
 Sin - less Lamb and fall - en crea - ture, One last  
 "Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me  
 One with You and one an - oth - er In a  
 When the longed - for peace and u - nion Of the



last the hour had come When but One could pay sin's  
 pas - chal meal to eat, One last les - son as their  
 as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance  
 u - ni - ty sub - lime, See in us Your sis - ter,  
 Great - est and the least Meet in joy - ous, blest com -



wa - ges: You as - sumed their dread - ful sum.  
teach - er, Wash - ing Your dis - ci - ples' feet.  
of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood."  
broth - er, One in ev - 'ry place and time.  
mu - nion In Your nev - er - end - ing feast.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Marty Haugen, 1950

Text: © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002155

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### *Stand*

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

## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

**C** Amen.

## INTROIT

*Psalm 116:1–4; antiphon: v. 5*



Gracious is the LORD, and | righteous;\*  
our God is | merciful.

**I love the LORD, because | he has heard\***  
**my voice and my pleas for | mercy.**

Because he inclined his | ear to me,\*  
therefore I will call on him as long | as I live.

**The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid | hold on me;\***  
**I suffered distress and | anguish.**

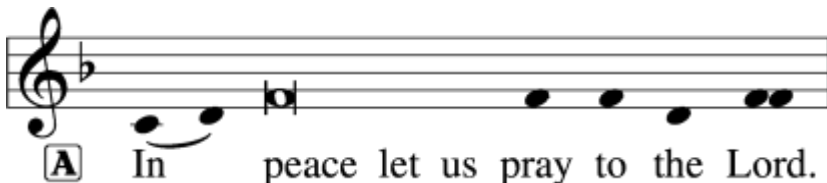
Then I called on the name | of the LORD:\*

“O LORD, I pray, deliv- | er my soul!”

**Gracious is the LORD, and | righteous;\***  
**our God is | merciful.**

## KYRIE

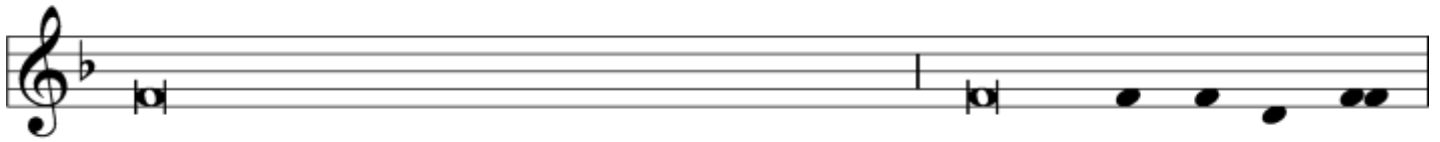
*LSB 152*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



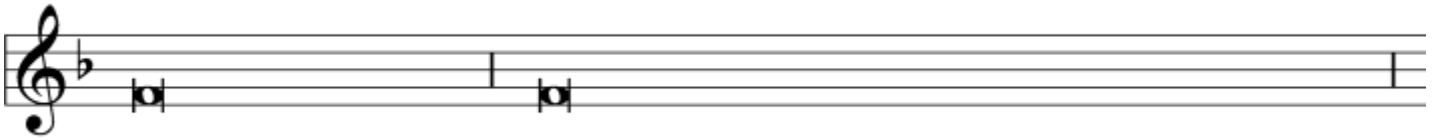
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



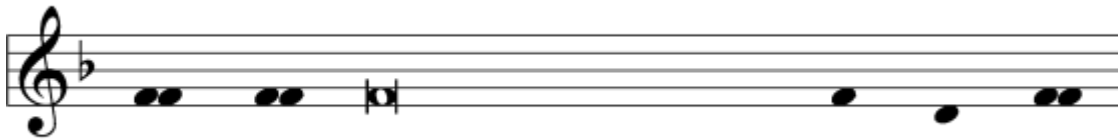
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

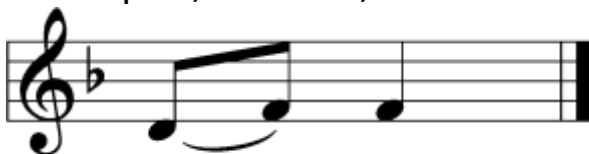


**C** And al - so with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, it was on this night that You washed Your disciples' feet and instituted the feast we know as the Lord's Supper. Nourish our faith and our souls in this feast of Your body and blood, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

✠WORD✠

## 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.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

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

**P** Christ entered once for all into the holy places,

**C** by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

**P** Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,

**C** so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

**P** He sent redemption to His people;

**C** 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.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## VERSE

John 13:1b

**P** Having loved His own who were in the world,

**C** 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.)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.



**C** Glo - ry 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.”*

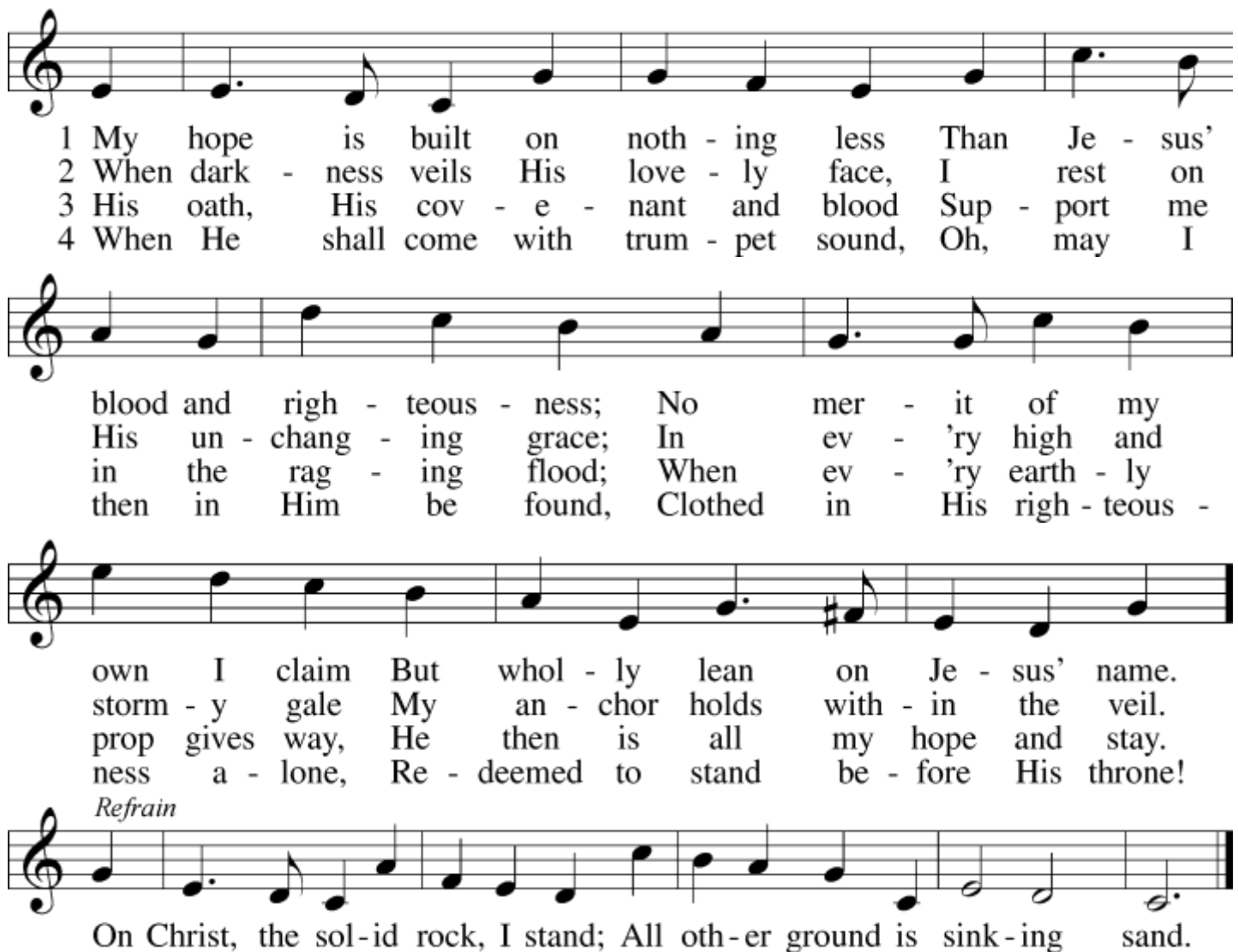
**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

*Sit*

## 575 MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'  
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on  
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me  
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I

blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my  
 His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and  
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly  
 then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -

own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

*Refrain*

On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

## VOTUM

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## **NICENE CREED**

**☐ 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

**P** 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,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** 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,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** 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,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** 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,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** 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.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## OFFERING

There are several ways to give.

1. Please **send** your offerings to  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
4801 Anderson Avenue  
Manhattan, KS 66503
2. **Electronic Funds Transfer**  
Sign up through the church office.

## OFFERTORY – Special Music

A Joyful Sound  
“What Is This Bread”

*Stand*

## ✠SACRAMENT✠

### PREFACE

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



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

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gives us the pure robe of His righteousness that covers all our sins, not counting our iniquities against us. 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** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for You have had mercy on us through Your only begotten Son, who welcomes us sinners to His Table.

We thank You for not sparing Your Son but sacrificing Him for the sins of the world. As we eat and drink Your Son's body and blood, remind us that You forgive our transgressions and cover our sins, no longer counting them against us, because of Jesus.

**C** Amen.

## WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** 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  $\text{✝}$  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  $\text{✝}$  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

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

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** 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

**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** A - men.

## AGNUS DEI

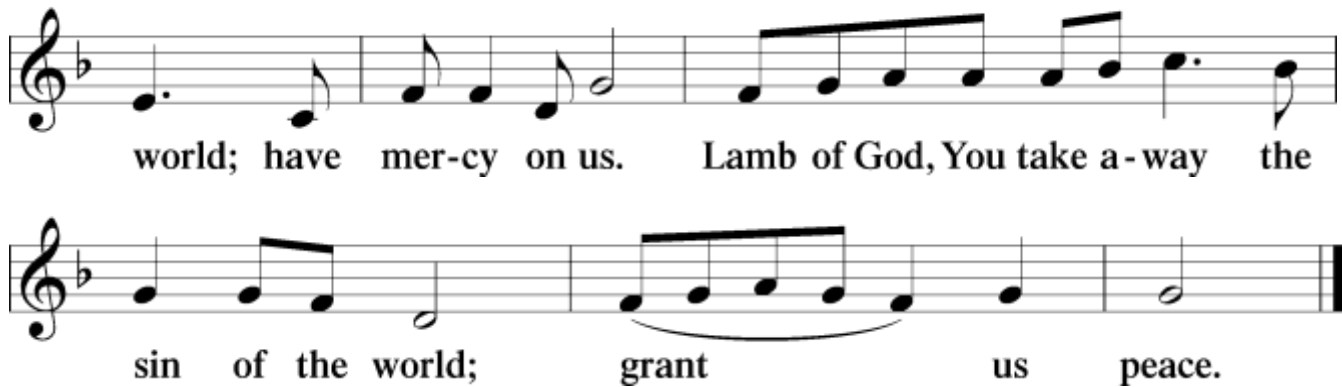
LSB 163



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



*Sit*

### **The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.


### **DISTRIBUTION**

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first. They then distribute the body and blood of Christ to those in the pews who are unable to come forward, and then finally to those who come forward.*

*Distribution and dismissal will be done by half tables.*

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

## 570 JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy  
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my  
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a  
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,

blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to  
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -  
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to

Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
 Because Thy promise I believe,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68

Text and tune: Public domain

# 618 I COME, O SAVIOR, TO THY TABLE



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and  
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners  
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I  
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my  
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -  
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in  
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt  
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -  
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:  
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.  
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:  
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.  
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.



*Refrain*  
 Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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Tune: Public domain

## 446 JESUS, GREATEST AT THE TABLE



1 Je - sus, great - est at the ta - ble, The al -  
 2 Mar - vel how their Lord and teach - er Gent - ly  
 3 Je - sus took the role of ser - vant When up -  
 4 Can we fath - om such deep mer - cy? Do we  
 5 Je - sus gave to His dis - ci - ples A com -



might - y Son of Man, Laid a - side His out - er cloth - ing,  
 taught them not to vie As He hum - bly knelt be - fore them,  
 on that grue - some span, For all hu - man sin He suf - fered  
 see what God has done? Who can grasp this great re - ver - sal:  
 mand - ment that was new: "Show My love to one an - oth - er,



Poured some wa - ter in a pan; As the Twelve lay,  
 Dust - y feet to wash and dry, By His ten - der  
 As a vile and loath - some man; On the cross poured  
 Love that gives His on - ly Son? Christ, the sin - less  
 Do as I have done for you; All the world will



hushed in si - lence, He the ser - vant's task be - gan.  
 touch ex - press - ing True com - pas - sion from on high.  
 out like wa - ter To ful - fill the Fa - ther's plan.  
 for the sin - ners, For the man - y dies the One.  
 know you love Me As you love each oth - er too."

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: David McCarthy, 1931

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## 436 GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the  
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of  
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,  
 life ar-raigned; Oh, the worm-wood and the gall!  
 at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
 breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His  
 Oh, the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,  
 God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
 Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.  
 hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

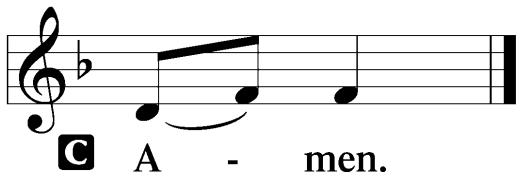
Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we thank You for forgiving our transgressions, covering our sins, and no longer counting our iniquities against us. Nourish us with the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus, and lead us to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as we see the Day drawing near; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Sit*

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

**P** 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.*

**P** 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.*

**P** 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.*

**P** 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.*

**P** 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.*

**P** 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 leave the church in silence.*



## **Acknowledgments**

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