

Maundy Thursday  
March 28, 2024

**Prelude**

***Eat This Bread***

Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
Come to me and never be hungry,  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
Trust in me and you will not thirst.

**Introduction**

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight as we worship, we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples. Through the sharing of this holy meal, we are formed into a new body in Christ, and we are transformed by the Spirit of God to share God's light and life with the world.

**Lenten Confession**

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil, all that keeps us from loving God and each other. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter these next Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

*Most Merciful God,*

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved through faith, and in the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts.  
**Amen.**

**Opening Song**

***Our Father, We Have Wandered***

1. Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face,  
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.  
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,  
As distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.
2. And now at length discerning the evil that we do,  
Behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.  
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,  
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
3. O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,  
Compassionate, forgiving, and ever caring Lord,  
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon and in peace.

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## Kyrie

*Kyrie Eleison means "Lord have mercy."*

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.  
We come to hear your living word, it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.  
Renew us with your saving power, create in us new hearts!

## Hymn of Praise

Glory be to God in heaven, peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth.  
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you, here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heaven above;  
On the cross you died to save us, now you reign at God's right hand,  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us, in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you, Lord alone, to you we call,  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all.  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright,  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

## Prayer of the Day

*Let us pray.*

God of promise, you made a covenant with your people in Israel at the Exodus, when you freed your people and led them to a new land. At Jesus' last supper, you renewed that covenant through the dying and rising of Jesus, leading your people to a new life. Renew your covenant with us daily, so that we might learn to live in your light and peace. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## Reading

**Mark 14:22-42**

*The Last Supper*

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same. They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to

death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

## Sermon

### Sermon Hymn

### *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Let us break bread together on our knees,  
Let us break bread together on our knees.

*Chorus:*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,  
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (*Chorus*)

Let us praise God together on our knees,  
Let us praise God together on our knees. (*Chorus*)

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

## Offering

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## **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and 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.**

## **Benediction**

## **Psalm 22**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?  
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but I find no rest.  
I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint.  
My mouth is dried up like a dry piece of clay,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws,  
My hands and feet have shriveled,  
I can count all my bones.  
You lay me in the dust of death.  
Do not be far from me,  
for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

## **Closing Hymn**

## ***How Long, O God***

1. "How long, O God?" the psalmist cries, a cry we make our own,  
For we are lost, alone, afraid, and far away from home.
2. The evil lurks within, without, it threatens to destroy  
The fragile cords that make us one, that bind our hearts in joy.
3. Your grace, O God, seems far away, will healing ever come?  
Our broken lives lie broken still, will night give way to dawn?
4. How can we hope? How can we sing? O God, set free our voice,  
To name the sorrows, name the pain, that we might yet rejoice.
5. "How long, O God?" the psalmist cries, a cry we make our own,  
Though we are lost, alone, afraid, our God will lead us home.