



MAUNDY THURSDAY

It's All about Jesus
March 28, 2024

As We Gather

In about 1498, Leonardo da Vinci completed his masterpiece “The Last Supper.” This famous painting shows Jesus seated at the table on Holy Thursday, surrounded by His twelve disciples. Although Judas the betrayer is positioned lower than the rest and darkened in features, Christ is full of light. Both the set of three windows that appear behind Jesus and the triangular shape of His body show how the triune God is made flesh in our Redeemer. All the gestures and expressions of the disciples are painted in such a way to capture the mixed moods of the night when our Lord was betrayed and handed over to death for us. Looking closely at the painting, every line is positioned in such a way to guide your eyes toward the center: Jesus, the Host of the feast, the centerpiece of da Vinci’s masterpiece! The Meal we gather to receive today is all about Jesus. The One who is the center of it all longs to gather His guests together to feast in His presence, both now and forevermore.

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

Luke 18:13

- P** By means of His Word and Supper, we gather together this day to receive our Savior’s mercy and respond to Him in thanksgiving and praise. Because of our sins of thought, word, and deed, we are spiritually bankrupt and unworthy of the grace we receive. Yet at the invitation of our loving Redeemer, we come to His Table and take our place with Him. Acknowledging our sin, let us find refuge in our God of grace and say, “God be merciful to me, a sinner.”

In silent prayer, we reflect on God’s Word and confess our sins to the Lord.

- P** Together, let us pray:
C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life, that we may enjoy the fullness of Your presence at the feast You have prepared for all who trust in You. Amen.**
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise again for you so that you may be redeemed and restored. You have been invited to the eternal banquet, the heavenly feast, where our Savior and Host delights us with the richest of fare, the forgiveness of sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a servant of Christ and your pastor, 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

- P** Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
C **our God is merciful.**
P I love the LORD, because He has heard
C **my voice and my pleas for mercy.**
P Because He inclined His ear to me,
C **therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.**
P The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
C **I suffered distress and anguish.**
P Then I called on the name of the LORD:

- C** “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”
- P** Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
- C** our God is merciful.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
Lord Jesus, in this sacred Meal You have left us a remembrance of Your suffering and death for our salvation.
- C** **As we eat with You in the kingdom of God, grant that our hearts and minds may be turned to You alone;**
- P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Holy Gospel

Mark 14:12–26

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourteenth chapter.

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

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, [Jesus’] disciples said to him, “Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.” And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, “Is it I?” He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

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

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

Creed

Nicene Creed

- C** **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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

- P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us lift up our hearts and voices to the God of all mercy as He has invited us to pray to Him in the name of our Savior and in the way in which He has taught us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Our Father in heaven, look with mercy upon us, for without Your aid we are spiritually poor, crippled, blind, and lame. Grant us grace that Your holy name is kept sacred among us and that, in all the world, Your Son may be known through the preaching of Your Word to the ends of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** King of kings, may Your rule and reign come to us and expand throughout the world. Bring all who are blinded by sin and bound by death to know Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Work through our earthly leaders and public servants so that Your hand of blessing may be known to all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that by faith we cling to the One who was betrayed and handed over to death for us. Into Your care we commend those who have needs in both soul and body... For these, and for all those we name before You in the silence of our hearts, we ask that Your will may be done among us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** How blessed we are to eat bread in Your kingdom, O God! Lord Jesus, You alone are the Bread of Life, and You alone satisfy our hungry hearts. Grant to us our daily bread and help us to realize that You daily and richly provide for all that we need according to Your own riches and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us. Center our hearts and minds on You alone. As we recognize that we are spiritually bankrupt without Your mercy, grant that the spirit of unforgiveness be removed from us so that we live in peace with You and with one another. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us to take refuge in Your grace. On this very night, You were betrayed by one of Your own and handed over to death. Direct us to follow You to the cross of Calvary, where You laid down Your life to deliver us from the evil one and all his works and all his ways. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We belong to You, O Lord. Renew us, guide us, and lead us so that we may bless Your holy name and celebrate the feast You have prepared for us,
- C** **for Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. 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.

Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
Blessed Savior, we can never repay You for the grace You have shown us. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of Your final coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the feast in Your kingdom, which knows no end; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 22:1–10

- P** My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My groaning?
- C** **O My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.**
- P** Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- C** **In You our fathers trusted; they trusted, and You delivered them.**
- P** To You they cried and were rescued; in You they trusted and were not put to shame.
- C** **But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.**
- P** All who see Me mock Me; they make mouths at Me; they wag their heads;
- C** **“He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!”**
- P** Yet You are He who took Me from the womb; You made Me trust You at My mother’s breasts.
- C** **On You was I cast from My birth, and from My mother’s womb You have been My God.**

The congregation departs from the sanctuary in silent reflection.

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
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