



"...For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20b

*-a congregation of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

*"Peace Conway is a loving Christian family, faithfully serving all people by sharing the good news of Jesus and caring for people in need."*

**Maundy Thursday**

**April 02, 2026**

**AS WE GATHER - PEACE CONWAY - MAUNDY THURSDAY**

As the Lord Jesus had His disciples make preparations for the annual Passover meal, little did they know that this would be the very last official observance of the commanded remembrance of the exodus deliverance of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage in the days of Moses. For in the next three days (the Triduum), the fulfillment of that prophetic event would culminate in the deliverance of all people from the bondage of sin and death by means of the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus, the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah and deliverer. Tonight the “cup of blessing” (1 Corinthians 10:16) of the Passover meal is made to be the means of our participation in the very blood to be shed in atonement on the cross of Good Friday. Tonight this cup becomes the Sacrament of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation given to each individual believer from now on until the Lord returns on the Last Day. Tonight it is of utmost importance for all to hear and to believe in the very real presence of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus not just “spiritually” but “in, with, and under” the bread and wine we share, for the Lord Himself invites us to take and eat His body and to take and drink His blood, shed for us.

**+ 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



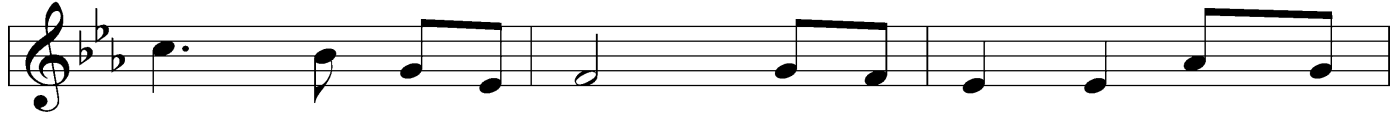
teach - er, faith - ful friend, Thoughts of self and safe - ty  
with tor - ment - ed heart To be with Your dear ones  
nev - er be out - spent, What great gift that would out -  
bod - y, You the head, When we meet, by You in -  
vi - sion glo - ri - ous, And Your saints will know the



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, 1919–2008Tune: Marty Haugen, 1950Text: © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000223Tune: © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000223

## INVOCATION

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

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 43:4; 124:8*

- 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.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- 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. 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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## INTROIT

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

## 639 WIDE OPEN STAND THE GATES



1 Wide o - pen stand the gates a - dorned with pearl, While  
 2 He speaks the Word the bread and wine to bless: "This  
 3 The cher - u - bim, their fac - es veiled from light, While



round God's gold - en throne The choirs of saints in  
 is My flesh and blood!" He bids us eat and  
 saints in won - der kneel, Sing praise to Him whose



end - less cir - cles curl, And joy - ous praise the Son!  
 drink with thank - ful - ness This gift of ho - ly food.  
 face with glo - ry bright No earth - ly masks con - ceal.



They watch Him now de - scend - ing To vis - it wait-ing earth.  
 All hu - man thought must fal - ter— Our God stoops low to heal,  
 This sac - ra - ment God gives us Binds us in u - ni - ty,



The Lord of Life un - end - ing Brings dy - ing hope new birth!  
 Now pres - ent on the al - tar, For us both host and meal!  
 Joins earth with heav'n be - yond us, Time with e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: J. K. Wilhelm Loehe, 1808-72; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007Tune: Christlich Neu-vermehrt . . . Gesangbuch, 1663, ErfurtText: © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000223Tune: Public domain

## KYRIE

**L** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our hearts and with all our minds, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

**L** For the Holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

**L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

**L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. Amen.

## SALUTATION

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PSALM

*Psalm 116:12–19*

<sup>12</sup>What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? <sup>13</sup>I will lift up the cup of salvation 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 thanksgiving 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!

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L** Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## 630 NOW, MY TONGUE, THE MYSTERY TELLING

sts. 1–3

(TUNE: 421 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*)

- 1 Now, my tongue, the myst'ry telling  
Of the glorious body sing,  
And the blood, all price excelling,  
Which the Gentiles' Lord and King,  
Once on earth among us dwelling,  
Shed for this world's ransoming.
- 2 Giv'n for us, and condescending  
To be born for us below,  
He with us in converse blending  
Dwelt, the seed of truth to sow,  
Till He closed with wondrous ending  
His most patient life of woe.
- 3 That last night at supper lying  
Mid the Twelve, His chosen band,  
Jesus, with the Law complying,  
Keeps the feast its rites demand;  
Then, more precious food supplying,  
Gives Himself with His own hand.

Text: Thomas Aquinas, c. 1225–1274; tr. The Hymnal 1940Tune: Chants ordinaires de l'Office Divin, Paris, 1881Text: © The Church Pension Fund. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000223Tune: Public domain

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Exodus 24:3–11*

<sup>3</sup>Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do." <sup>4</sup>And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>5</sup>And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. <sup>6</sup>And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. <sup>7</sup>Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." <sup>8</sup>And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." <sup>9</sup>Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, <sup>10</sup>and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. <sup>11</sup>And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

Hebrews 9:11–22

<sup>11</sup>When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

<sup>13</sup>For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

<sup>15</sup>Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. <sup>16</sup>For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. <sup>17</sup>For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood.

<sup>19</sup>For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, <sup>20</sup>saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” <sup>21</sup>And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. <sup>22</sup>Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## 630 NOW, MY TONGUE, THE MYSTERY TELLING

sts. 4–5

*(TUNE: 421 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent)*

- 4 Word made flesh, the bread He taketh,  
By His word His flesh to be;  
Wine His sacred blood He maketh,  
Though the senses fail to see;  
Faith alone the true heart waketh  
To behold the mystery.

△5 Glory let us give and blessing  
To the Father and the Son,  
Honor, thanks, and praise addressing,  
While eternal ages run;  
Ever too His love confessing  
Who from both with both is One.

Text: Thomas Aquinas, c. 1225–1274; tr. The Hymnal 1940Tune: Chants ordinaires de l'Office Divin, Paris, 1881Text: © The Church Pension Fund. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000223Tune: Public domain

## VERSE

- P** Having loved His own who were in the world,  
**C** He loved them to the end.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 26:17–30*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>17</sup>Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?”

<sup>18</sup>He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” <sup>19</sup>And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

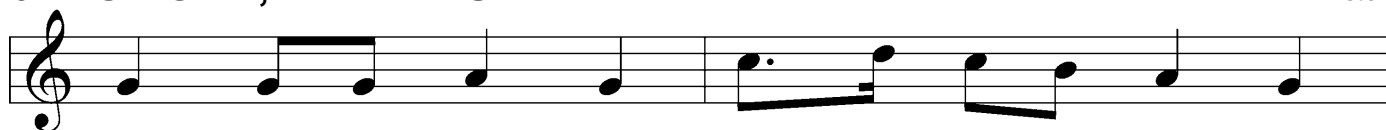
<sup>20</sup>When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. <sup>21</sup>And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” <sup>22</sup>And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” <sup>23</sup>He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup>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.” <sup>25</sup>Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

<sup>26</sup>Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” <sup>30</sup>And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

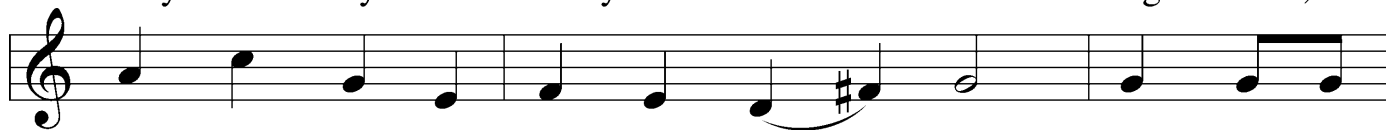
- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

# 617 O LORD, WE PRAISE THEE

sts. 1-2



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,  
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy  
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that  
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -



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



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;



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (st. 2): Martin Luther, 1483-1546Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann WalterText: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000223Tune: Public domain

## SERMON

### NICENE CREED

*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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## OFFERING & VIDEO

*(At this time, please fill out the attendance sheet in the colored bulletin and place in the offering plate. Also at this time, on the back of the attendance slip, please refresh your thoughts or read what we believe, as you prepare to come to receive the Lord's Body & Blood or as you come forward to receive a blessing.)*

## 956 CREATE IN ME

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12 Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, You are our Lord and we have become Your disciples in Baptism, Your brothers and sisters, Your Body and individually members of it. As on that holy night when You entered into the final days of Your Passion, You suffered betrayal at the hand of one of Your own chosen disciples, so do we number ourselves still struggling with sin and the temptation of going our own way. As You restored Your servant Simon Peter, You have spoken Your sustaining Word of forgiveness to us this night. Make us faithful to Your calling that we may continually worship You in spirit and in truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**L** On this night You took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it now to be Your body given for us and our salvation. Continue to give us this sacred bread that You may live in us as we live in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**L** In the same way also You took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it now to be the new testament in Your blood, shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. Make us drink deeply of Your great love that we may love You in return and serve as ambassadors of Your love for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**L** When You commanded Your disciples, saying, “Do this in remembrance of Me,” You were promising not just good memories of the past but Your very presence with every believer giving every good and perfect gift of mercy and grace through Your eternal Word and Spirit. “Come, then, Lord, and help Your people, bought with the price of Your own blood, and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting” (*LSB* 939). Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**L** Hear also our prayer for all public servants; for the government and those who protect us; for the deliverance of all from any affliction, danger, or need; and all for whom You have come to be the eternal Savior, the way, the truth, and the life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**L** Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**+ SACRAMENT +**

# 617 O LORD, WE PRAISE THEE

st. 3

3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor  
 That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -  
 geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this  
 blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that  
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see  
 Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: fr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483-1546Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann WalterText: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000223Tune: Public domain

## PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.                      **C** And also 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, on this most holy night, declared the exodus of all creation from its from bondage to sin and death, at the price of His blood, and commanded the remembrance of His promised presence as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup.

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

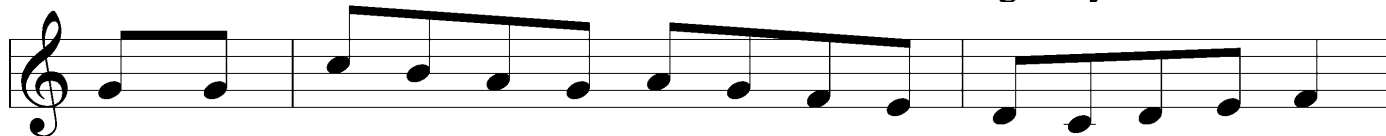
LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy upon us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. As Your people of old were commanded to keep the Passover as a feast to the Lord throughout their generations, as a statute forever, so has Christ become our Passover who endured the wrath and death of sin for us and the whole world by the sacrifice of His own body and blood on the cross of Calvary, opening the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Grant us to keep the feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## THE 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.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

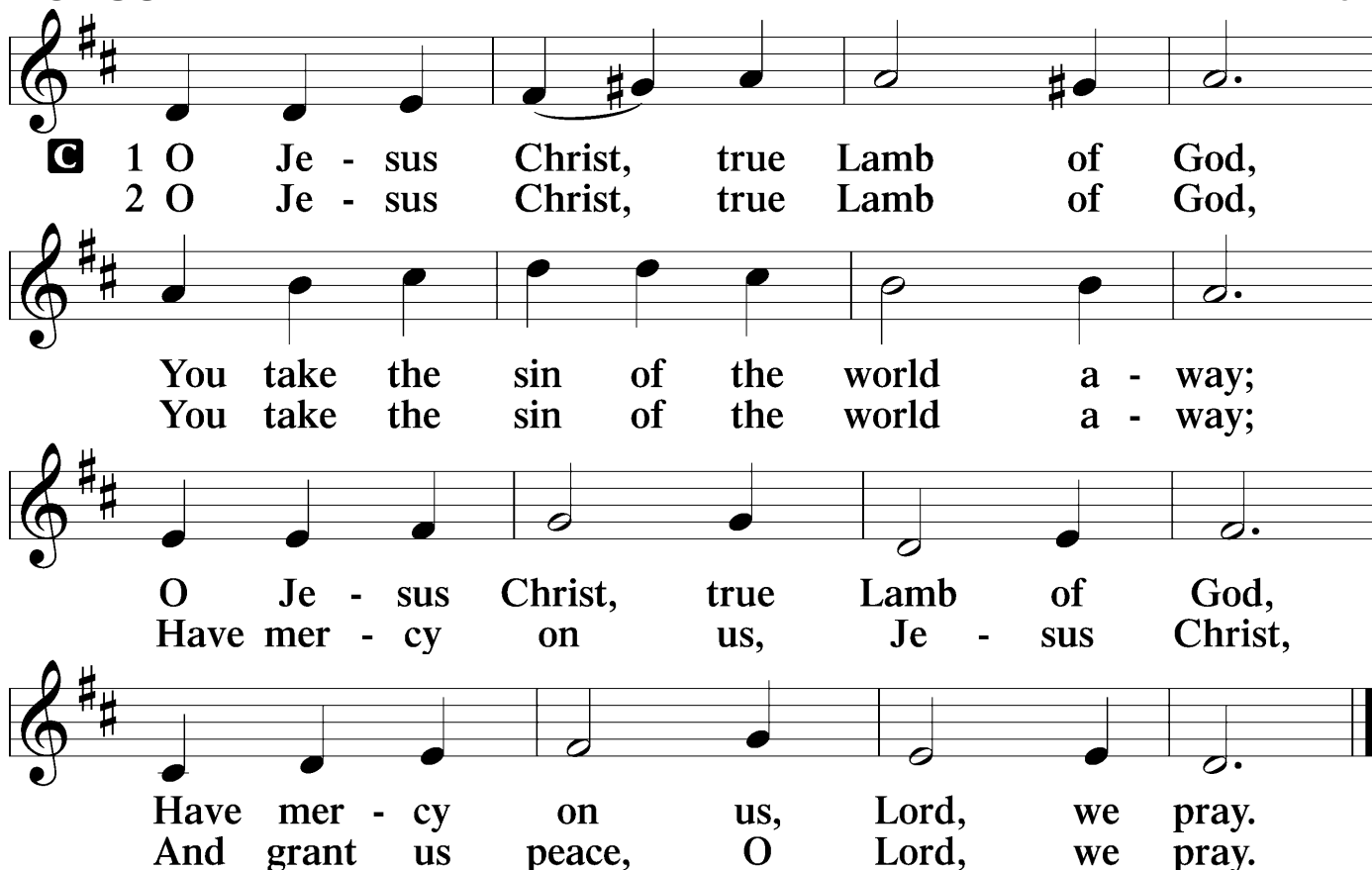
## PAX DOMINI

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

**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 210



**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

## COME TO THE TABLE *(video)*

We all start on the outside  
The outside looking in  
This is where grace begins  
We were hungry we were thirsty  
With nothing left to give  
Oh the shape that we were in

And just when all hope seemed lost  
Love opened the door for us  
He said come to the table

Come join the sinners who have been redeemed  
Take your place beside the Savior  
Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table

Come meet this mightly crew of misfits  
These liars and these thieves  
There's no one unwelcome here  
That sin and shame that you brought with you  
You can leave it at the door  
And let mercy draw you near

So, come to the table  
Come join the sinners who have been redeemed  
Take your place beside the Savior  
Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table, Come to the table

To the thief and to the doubter, To the hero and the coward  
To the prisoner and the soldier, To the young and to the older

All who hunger, all who thirst, All the last and all the first  
All the paupers and the princess, All who fail, you've been forgiven

All who dream and all who suffer, All who loved and lost another  
All the chained and all the free, All who follow all who lead

Anyone who's been let down  
All the lost you have been found  
All who have been labeled right or wrong  
To everyone who hears this song

Come to the table  
Come join the sinners you have been redeemed  
Take your place beside the Savior  
Sit down and be set free

Oh, Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table  
Come to the table  
Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table

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## **COME JESUS COME** *(video)*

*Ce Ce Winans*

Sometimes I fall to my knees and pray  
Come Jesus come, let today be the day  
Sometimes I feel like I'm gonna break  
But I'm holding on to a hope that won't fade

Come Jesus come  
We've been waiting so long  
For the day You return to heal every hurt  
And right every wrong  
We need You right now  
Come and turn this around  
Deep down I know this world isn't home  
Come Jesus come

There'll be no war and there'll be no chains  
When Jesus comes, let today be the day  
He'll come for the weak and the strong just the same  
And all will believe in the power of His name

Come Jesus come  
We've been waiting so long  
For the day You return to heal every hurt  
And right every wrong  
We need you right now  
Come and turn this around  
Deep down I know this world isn't home  
Come Jesus come, Come Jesus come

One day He'll come, and we'll stand face to face  
Come and lay it all down, 'cause it might be today  
The time is right now, there's no need to wait  
Your past will be washed by rivers of grace

Come Jesus come  
We've been waiting so long  
For the day You return to heal every hurt  
And right every wrong  
We need you right now, come and turn this around  
Deep down I know this world isn't home  
Come Jesus come, Come Jesus come, Come Jesus come

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## **POST-COMMUNION DISMISSAL**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

**C** Amen.

## **PRAYER**

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **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 service of Good Friday.)*

- 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.

*The missal stand is 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.***

## **READING**

*Luke 22:47–54*

<sup>47</sup>While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup>but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" <sup>49</sup>And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" <sup>50</sup>And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup>But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. <sup>52</sup>Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? <sup>53</sup>When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

<sup>54</sup>Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance.

***(All leave the church in silence.)***

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