

***Maundy Thursday***  
***March 28, 2024***  
***7:00pm Worship & Communion***

**Prelude**           “ \* ” indicates that the congregation is asked to stand, as able.

**Welcome & Announcements**

**\* The Order of Confession and Absolution**

(from “The Hymnal” of the Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod, ©1925)

*Pastor:* In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***Congregation:* Amen.**

*Pastor:* Holy and righteous God,

***Congregation:* merciful Father, we confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You above all things, nor our neighbor as ourselves. We are worthy only to be cast away from Your presence, if You should judge us according to our sins. But You have promised, heavenly Father, to receive with tender mercy all repentant sinners who turn to You with a living faith, seeking refuge in Your Fatherly compassion and in the merits of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Their transgressions You do not regard, nor do You count their sins against them. Relying on Your promise, and confident in Your mercy and grace, we ask You to forgive all our sins, to the praise and glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.**

*Pastor:* If this is your sincere confession, and if with repentant hearts you earnestly desire the forgiveness of your sins for the sake of Jesus Christ, God, according to His promise, forgives you all your sins. By the authority of God’s Word and by the command of our Lord, Jesus Christ, I declare to you that God, through His grace, has forgiven all your sins; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***Congregation:* Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn #220**    (TOSB vs. 1 & 2)

**“The Old Rugged Cross”**

**\*The Prayer of the Day**   *All:* Father in heaven, as we walk together, on the road to the cross, during the season of Lent, we pray that the Holy Spirit will fill our hearts, with a desire to know Jesus, more deeply than we have ever known him before. Set our hearts on fire, so that our lives may bear witness to the world, about the love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**Choir Anthem**

**“Bread Of Heaven”**

**The First Lesson:**    **Exodus 12:1-14**

*Instructions for celebrating the Passover*

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire - head,

legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover. On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn - both men and animals - and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD - a lasting ordinance."

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*    **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

P:1 I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

**C:2 Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

P:12 What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?

**C:13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,**

P:14 I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

**C:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.**

P:16 O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

**C:17 I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.**

P:18 I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

**All:19 in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**

**The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

*Institution of the Lord's Supper.*

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 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." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*    **C: Thanks be to God!**

**The Gospel Announcement**

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.*    **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**The Gospel Lesson: John 14:1-6**

**14** "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.    **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn**    *(on screen only vs. 1 & 2)*

**"In The Hour Of Trial"**

**Sermon**

**“I Am The Way, And The Truth, And The Life”**

**Pastor William Shields**

*(Text: John 14:1-6)*

**\* Apostle’s Creed:**

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

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

**Hymn #759**

**“My Faith Looks Up To Thee”**

**Offering**

**The Pastoral Prayer**

**\*The Words of Institution**

**\*The Lord’s Prayer**

*Pastor:* Come to the banquet, for all is now ready!

**The Communion** *In the Lord’s Supper, we believe that Jesus is truly present in this meal to share His forgiveness and grace. All who share our faith are welcome. If communing, please hold your hand out to receive the bread, gluten free wafers are also available. Others will receive a blessing. Each tray holds red wine and white grape juice. Please return to your seat by the side aisle. Please sing the following hymns during Communion: 592, 595, 597, 608.*

**Blessing:**

*Pastor:* The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. ***Congregation:* Amen.**

**\*Benediction**

*P:* The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Congregation:* Amen**

**Sending Hymn: #697**

**“Just A Closer Walk With Thee”**

*As we sing, the altar will be stripped of bread and wine, linens and paraments. The action symbolizes the end of the Last Supper and the beginning of the journey to the cross.*

*Pastor:* Let us go in peace. ***Congregation:* In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Postlude**