Holy Thursday A New Covenant Buries an Old Contract



Atonement Lutheran Church 9121 Old Harford Rd + Parkville, MD 21234 (410)-668-3886

April 17, 2025 – 7:00 pm

Dead and Buried: Series Explanation

We have come to the final stretch of Lent, known as "Holy Week." Think about what that title is implying. We normally talk about a "holiday" (short for "holy day"), where *one day* is set aside for some special observance or celebration. But for centuries, believers have set aside *this entire week* for special observance. Clearly, what is discussed during Holy Week is important. Indeed, what we see happen this Holy Week is the foundation of our eternity.

In Holy Week, we see the impossible. The Son of God dies. The Lord of Life enters the last place he belonged – the grave. But what we will see this week is that, when Jesus entered the tomb, he did not go alone. He buried all our baggage with him: sin, guilt, shame, condemnation, fear. Jesus will walk out of the tomb. But thanks to him, those things will all stay dead and buried.

Our worship follows this pattern.

Passion Sunday / Palm Sunday	Surrender Buries Seizure
Holy Thursday	A New Covenant Buries an Old Contract
Good Friday	A One-Time Substitute Buries All-Time Guilt

Our Worship Today: A New Covenant Buries an Old Contract

On Thursday of Holy Week, Jesus began to execute the terms of the New Covenant. This New Covenant replaced an old one and was fundamentally different from it in every way. While the Old Covenant was more like a contract, the New Covenant is more like a will. The old offers rewards in return for work; the new makes unconditional and lasting promises. The old will always leave us starving in our relationship with God; the new satisfies the deepest hunger of our soul.

This is precisely why Jesus connected this New Covenant with a special meal. To an uninformed outsider, the Lord's Supper looks like a poor snack – a bite of bread and sip of wine. But the followers of Christ understand that this holy food provides all the blessings of the New Covenant.

Welcome to Worship!

We are glad that you have joined us today. Our service is printed for you in its entirety in this worship folder. If you need anything, please speak to an usher at the entrance of the sanctuary.

- **During the Service** the congregation reads the bold portions marked with a "**C**".
- **Restrooms** are located near the entry to the sanctuary.
- **Infants Room** If you have a young child or nursing infant and are in need of an infant-room, you will find it to the far right as you enter the sanctuary.
- **The Guest Registry** is found on the wall to the left as you enter the sanctuary. We would appreciate a record of your visit! You may also indicate in the registry if you would like to stay in touch.
- Foundations Class If you are interested in learning more about what we teach and believe, please ask the usher or the pastor about our no-obligation Foundations Class which covers the basic teachings of our biblical faith.
- **Our Communion Practice** We believe that gathering at God's altar to receive Holy Communion is a testimony of the confession and commitment we share as members of the Lutheran Church. We ask guests who are not members of our Lutheran denomination to speak with the pastor before joining us at the altar so that all may have a clear understanding of our faith and practice. Thank you.
- **Prayer before worship** Heavenly Father, I have come to worship you. Draw near to me in your gracious Word, and assure me of your loving kindness. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear your voice and sing your praise. Amen.

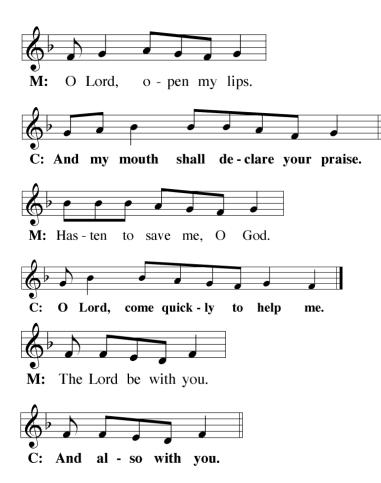


Holy Thursday Order of Service + Evening Prayer with Communion +

"Evening Prayer" is based on the historic service called "Vespers." Christians gather at the end of the day to raise their voices in thankful praise and prayer.

HYMN 106 – Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain 1 Come Cal-v'ry's moun-tain, Sin - ners, to ho - ly ru - ined 2 Come in pov - er and mean-ness, Come de - filed, with ty and con - tri - tion, Wound-ed, 3 Come in sor - row par - a -4 He that drinks shall live for ev - er: 'Tis soul - re a fall: by the Here and heal - ing foun - tain а pure with - in: From in - fec - tion out. and un clean-ness, guilt - y, lyzed, and blind: Here the free re mis - sion, new - ing flood. God is faith - ful: God will nev - er Flows all. full. to In you, to me, to а per -From the lep - ro of sin. Wash your robes -SV and trou-bled, peace may the find. Health this tain Here foun -Break his of blood, Signed when cov - e - nant Re our pet - ual tide, O pened when Sav ior died. our make them white; walk with You shall God in light. will re - store; He that drinks shall thirst no more. deem - er died. Sealed when glo - ri - fied. he was

Stand



M Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be Seated

+ Psalms Section +

On Maundy Thursday evening, after washing the disciples' feet, praying for the Church, celebrating the Passover, and instituting the Lord's Supper, Jesus left the upper room, "when they had sung a hymn." More than likely those hymns were comprised of the traditional Passover Psalms. So, this evening, we join to sing Psalms appropriate for the season.



Silence for Meditation

- M Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

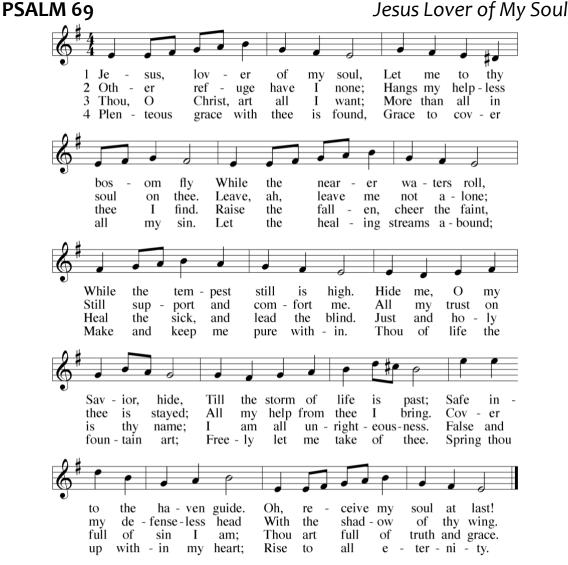
PSALM 22

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (sts. 1-5)



Silence for Meditation

- M Father, when your Son hung on the cross, he cried out to you in agony and grief. You gave him the strength to endure so that death might be destroyed and life restored. Have mercy on us all our days and preserve us in true faith unto life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.



Silence for Meditation

- M God our Father, you fulfilled the ancient prophecies in Christ's Passover from death to life. Through the contemplation of his healing wounds, make us zealous for your Church and grateful for your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

HYMN

136 – 'Twas on that Dark, that Doleful Night



+ The Word +

READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Old Covenant could only modify behavior. The New Covenant transforms people's hearts and minds.

^{31:31} "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God. and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

+ Holy Thursday Meditation +

Is the promise for me?

Stand

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be Seated

+ The Sacrament +

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 22:7-20

Jesus institutes the meal of the New Covenant. In this sacrament his body and blood are the food and drink that satisfy our every spiritual need.

^{22:7} Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹² He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

¹⁹And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

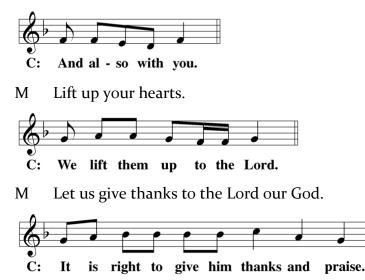
²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C Amen.
- M The Lord be with you.



M Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - Sanctus



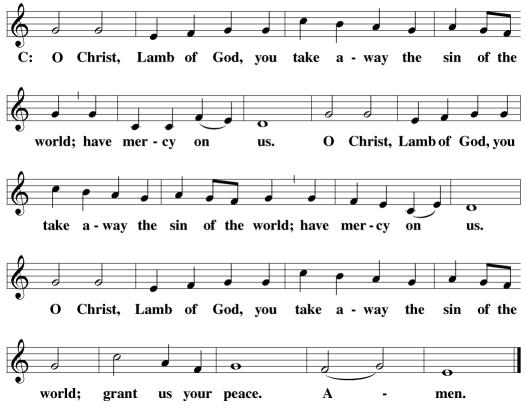
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



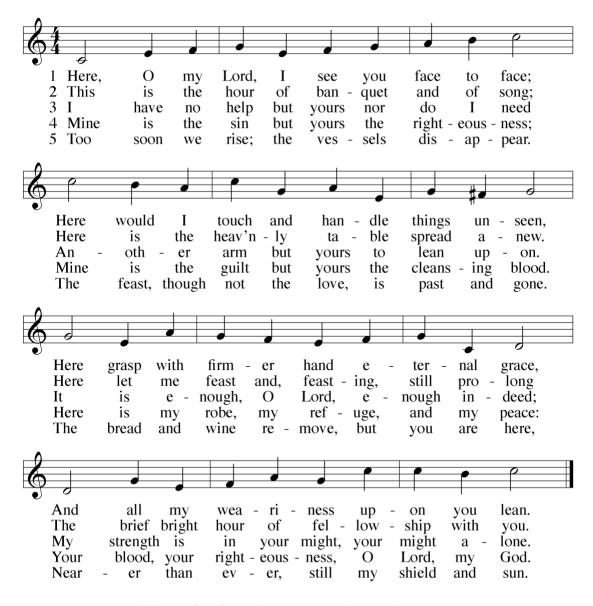
O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD – Agnus Dei



Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

Atonement practices member communion. We ask, therefore, that only members of this congregation and our fellowship (the Wisconsin Synod) partake of the sacrament. If you are a member of another Lutheran denomination or Christian church and would like to commune with us in the future, please speak with our pastor after the service and he would be delighted to explain what that entails. **DISTRIBUTION HYMN** 315 – Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face



6 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by, Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above, Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy, The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love. **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

382 – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



17

LORD, HAVE MERCY – Kyrie

M In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



M For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



M For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



M For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



M For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



M For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



M In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.

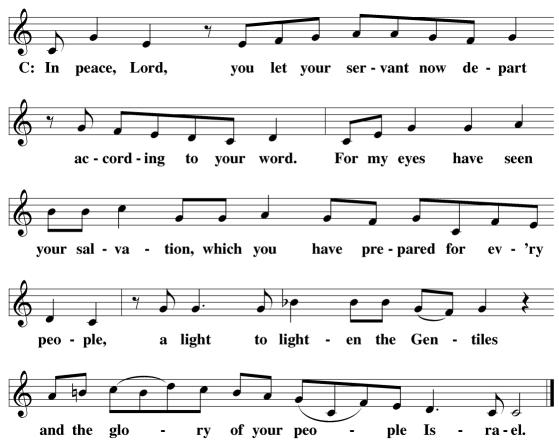


LORD'S PRAYER

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.



SONG OF SIMEON – Nunc Dimittis



+ Stripping of the Altar +

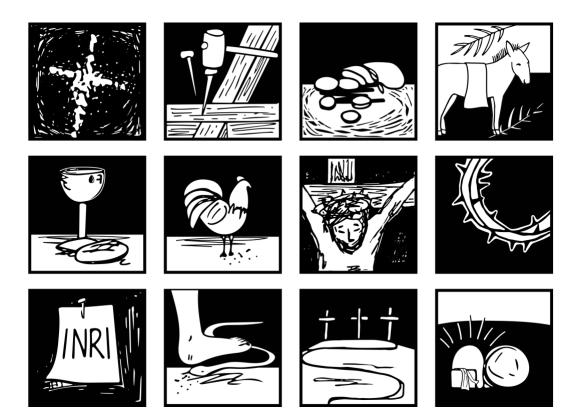
While the congregation sing the final hymn, the altar is solemnly stripped of its "vestments". The stripping of the altar symbolizes the desertion by the disciples and the impending stripping of Jesus' body (John 19:23). We are reminded of the humility and suffering that our Savior was about to endure on our behalf.



I too shall praise you.

There is no benediction for this service in recognition that the services of Holy Week are knit into one cloth. Only after the joy of Jesus' resurrection on Easter day will the congregation close her worship with a benediction.

You may place Holy Thursday Offerings in the offering plate by the door as you leave.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sam Meister Steve Backes Scott Schweitzer Dan Meister Ellen Cammarata Pastor Koelpin

Opening Versicles and Responses

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106 - Come To Calvary's Holy Mountain

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt. Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-87 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Let My Prayer Rise Before You

Tune and setting: David Schack. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

105 - O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153, abr.; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941, alt. Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

<u> 357 - Jesus, Lover of My Soul</u>

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, abr. Tune: Joseph Parry, 1841-1903 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

<u>136 – 'Twas on that Dark, that Doleful Night</u>

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, abr., alt. Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-76 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

<u>315 – Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face</u>

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, abr., alt. Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595-1662 Text and Tune: public domain. Setting: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission of CPH.

<u> 382 – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</u>

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

Organ Usher Communion Assistant Streaming Greeter Preacher

Tune: John Stainer, 1840-1901 Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

117 - O, Dearest Jesus

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, st. 1-4, 6-7, alt.; The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941, st. 5, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662 Text and Tune: public domain. Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer. Used by permission.

Sanctus, Agnus Dei

Tune and setting: © 1991 David Schack. Used by permission.

Song of Simeon

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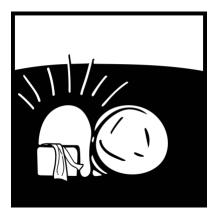
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Holy Week Worship Schedule:

Good Friday – April 18th @ 7 pm Easter Dawn – April 20th @ 7 am

Easter Festival Worship with Communion – April 20th @ 10 am



Let's Stay in Touch!

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