

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
1764 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville, Texas 77974  
361-277-8653  
Pastor John Boor  
**April 6, 2023**  
*Worship Service 7:00 p.m.*

AS WE GATHER

On this night known in the Church as Holy Thursday, Jesus invites us to join Him once again at His Table. He knows our need for strengthening and reassurance. The place in which we gather is filled with the blessing of fellowship as we remember the new command of our Lord Jesus to love one another. Our Lord serves us in many ways, most singularly as the Host at His Table, where we receive His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Time and again we are invited to return to the Table, where truly we experience a foretaste of the feast to come.

**Prelude**

**Ringling of the Church Bells**

**Announcements**

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

I will go to the altar of God,

**To God my exceeding joy.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**Who made heaven and earth.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

In the Upper Room, our Lord Jesus Christ gave a new command that His people are to love one another as He has loved us. When we look at our lives, we see clearly that we have not fulfilled that new command. We know that we are by nature sinful and unclean and realize that we have transgressed the Law of God in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves and have passed by countless opportunities to be of service in the name of the Lord. In His mercy, God has promised His forgiveness to those who repent and turn to Him, humbly asking for His grace in Christ Jesus. Let us then make our confession to our God. O almighty God, merciful Father,

Most merciful God,

**C We confess that we are in bondage 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.**

**L** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

Opening Hymn

***“Go to Dark Gethsemane”***

LBW# 109

**Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from his griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; Learn from him to bear the cross.**

**Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at his feet,  
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

**Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid his breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.**

The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

**First 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.

### **Psalm 116:12–19**

**What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?**

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,

I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.

**Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.**

O LORD, I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

**I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup> Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

*Stand*

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 14:12-26**

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup> 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?” <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> 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?’ <sup>15</sup> And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.” <sup>16</sup> And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>17</sup> And when it was evening, He came with the twelve. <sup>18</sup> 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.” <sup>19</sup> They began to be sorrowful and to say to Him one after another, “Is it I?” <sup>20</sup> He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with Me. <sup>21</sup> 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.”

<sup>22</sup> 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.” <sup>23</sup> And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. <sup>24</sup> And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup> 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.”

<sup>26</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.**

*Sit*

**Sermon**

Hymn

***“Were You There”***

LBW#92

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?**

**Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?**

*Stand*

**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 of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, that God's people may be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking they may receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life and have a foretaste of the feast to come, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they may always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as

our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Offering

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on our fallen humanity, revealing to us your holy will and sending your only Son to fulfill it in our stead. With repentant joy we receive the gracious salvation you provide through the sacrifice of his body and blood on the cross.

Strengthen us as we gather in remembrance of Jesus grant us to grow in faith and love; and gather us together with all the faithful to rejoice together around your throne in eternity. To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory now and forever.

**Amen**

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray;

**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**

**P** Come to his holy table with penitent hearts, seeking communion with our Lord. The Distribution (Please follow directions of the ushers)

**P** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** **Amen**

**P** Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

#### STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

**Pastor:** After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours before our Lord was crucified. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgotha and execution. Christ's offered body and his shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the bread and wine in this holy Mystery.

**All:** **As he was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this holy Sacrament.**

*Communion vessels are removed.*

**Pastor:** The cross is where Jesus took on our punishment to be able to give us the gift of heaven.

**All:** **When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"**

*The altar cross is removed.*

**Pastor:** The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God.

**All:** **As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard.**

*The missal stand and Altar Book are removed.*



Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**All: The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world.**

*All candles are extinguished and removed.*

Pastor: Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in sending his Son, Jesus, in human form.

**All: As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.**

*The offerings are removed.*

Pastor: 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.

**All: As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.**

*The altar cloths and paraments are removed.*

*After the Stripping of the Altar, the hymn is sung.*

Hymn

*"It Happened on That Fateful Night"*

LBW#127

**It happened on that fateful night When pow'rs of earth and hell arose  
Against the Son, our God's delight, And friends betrayed him to his foes.**

**Before the bitter scene began, He took the bread, and blest and broke.  
What love through all his actions ran! What wondrous words of love he spoke!**

**"My body, broken for your sin, Receive and eat as living food."  
He took the cup and blest the wine: "Share this New Testament, my blood."**

**"Do this," he said, "till time shall end, Remembering your dying friend;  
Meet at my table and record The full obedience of your Lord."**

**O Lord, your feast we celebrate; We show your death; we sing your name  
Till you return, when we shall eat The marriage supper of the Lamb.**

(The congregation leaves in silence)

Now, what is the Sacrament of the Altar?

Answer: It is the true body and blood of the Lord Christ, in and under the bread and wine, which we Christians are commanded by Christ's word to eat and drink. It is bread and wine set within God's Word and bound to it.

-Martin Luther-

The Large Catechism