

**Life On the Edge of Faith**  
**Maundy Thursday Worship Service**  
**April 17, 2025**



**The Opening Hymn: “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love” ELW 708**

**The Opening Litany**      Isaiah 65:17-20, 24

P: Behold, I will create a new heaven and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered.

**C: Nor will they come to mind.**

P: But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create,

**C: For I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.**

P: I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people.

**C: The sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.**

P: Before they call I will answer.

**C: While they are still speaking, I will hear.**

P: The wolf and the lamb will feed together,

**C: And the lion will eat straw like the ox.**

## **The First Reading**

Exodus 12:1-14

### **The Service of Public Confession and Absolution**

**Pastor:** From the first day of Lent, when we felt the filth of the ashes placed on our foreheads, we have allowed the awareness of our sin to grow. Throughout these six weeks, as that comprehension grew, so did our horror at our own alienation from each other and from God. But even as our understanding of our separation grew, our understanding of our personal need for God increased. And it was during these past six weeks that we remembered, that even while we were in awe of our own weakness and immorality, God is with us and has redeemed us.

**C:** In coming here this evening, we declare to God, to the world, and to each other our need for forgiveness. To have the courage to make such a declaration, we have not only faced our sins and called them by their right names, but we have also realized that God has the only way for us out of our trap, a trap which we ourselves set, again and again, by means of our sin.

**Pastor:** Therefore, let us confess our sins to each other and to God and hear his word of forgiveness.

**C:** Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord. When we fail to bring your love into consideration or when we slip into apathy or despair about the world. When we fail to take strength and courage from the example of your Son,

**All:** Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord.

**Men:** When by our inaction, we allow injustice, greed, selfishness, and even cruelty to go unchecked,

**Women:** When by our inaction, we allow your truth to go unspoken and undefended, ignored, and mocked,

**All:** Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord.

**Right Side:** When with our apathy and despair, we fall into dangerous, abusive, and destructive habits,

**Left Side:** Or allow our hopelessness to turn into cynicism and the base desire for power, wealth, or other forms of earthly corruptible security,

**All:** Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord.

**Right Side:** When in our weakness and fear, we allow ourselves to be dragged down into a place in which we see no way to live which does not involve sinful behavior,

**Left Side:** And perhaps we find our strength and our courage in sin instead of your goodness,

**All:** Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord.

**Right Side:** When we find profane power and treacherous security in acts of injustice, greed, selfishness, and cruelty,

**Left Side:** And allow others to pay the cost for that power and security,

**All:** Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord.

**Right Side:** When we neglect the truth which your Son died to show us, when we abuse those who try to spread that truth with words and actions with our fearful doubt and our lack of support,

**Left Side:** When we show the world how little your love really means to us,

**All:** Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord.

**Pastor:** We lay our lives, unworthy of even a glance from you, at your feet, knowing that we will receive your mercy, not because anything we have done or can hope to do but because of your Son's sacrifice which paid our debt.

**All: Humbly, we give you thanks. Amen.**

**The Gospel Verse**          Matthew 6:19-21

**Pastor:** Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

**All: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**The Gospel Lesson**          Matthew 26:17-29

**The Sermon**

**The Sermon Hymn:** “Existing on The Edge of Faith”  
(Tune: The Church of Christ n Ev’ry Age”)          ELW 729

Existing on the edge of faith,  
Christ’s promised peace alone we seek  
Grant us the strength to look to you,  
We fear our lives are frail and weak.

For those who trust your mercy, Lord,  
Great joy is found at every turn.  
Help us to bring this to each task,  
When thwarted, we for justice yearn.

Teach us the humble road to walk.  
Open our hearts to your embrace  
Then we can show the world your love,  
With acts of mercy, joy, and grace.

## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **The Prayers of The People**

**Pastor:** Let us pray to be open to our Lord's mercy. As we near the end of our Lenten journey, Lord, we hanker more and more for the announcement of your Son's resurrection. We know the bitterness our sin has caused us and how it has kept us from embracing the freedom you meant for us to have. Fill our hearts with the knowledge of your forgiveness, Lord, so that we may rejoice in forgiving ourselves and each other. Our heads deeply bowed,

**All: We pray to you, O Lord.**

**Pastor:** As we prepare to celebrate your Son's resurrection, cause us to remember not only our own temptation to exist on the edge of faith and not roam in its wondrous opportunity, but also keep us mindful of those who are still unaware of the freedom that could be theirs. There are so many, Lord, who know your name but know nothing of your love. Give us the courage to show them that love and, as a result, free us to feel the joy that comes from it. Our heads deeply bowed,

**All: We pray to you, O Lord.**

**Pastor:** We give you thanks, dear Father, that you sent your Son to be among us. We also thank you for giving us the loving mandate of Holy Communion.

By means of this action, we see the blessings of both salvation and community. Our heads deeply bowed,

**All: We pray to you, O Lord.**

**Pastor:** Standing on the edge of faith, we beg you to hold us up, dear Lord, with your gift of peace and hear our prayers.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Offering**

### **Psalm 51**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

**According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

**For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.**

Against you, you only, have I sinned

**And done what is evil in your sight,**

So that you are proved right when you speak

**And justified when you judge.**

Surely I was sinful at birth,

**Sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;

**You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.**

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean.

**Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness.

**Let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins

**And blot out all my iniquity.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God,

**And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

Do not cast me from your presence

**Or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation

**And grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

**And sinners will turn back to you.**

Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me,

**And my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**

O Lord, open my lips,

**And my mouth will declare your praise.**

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

**You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

In your good pleasure make Zion prosper;

**Build up the walls of Jerusalem.**

Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you;

**Then bulls will be offered on your altar.**

### **The Words of Institution for Maundy Thursday**

**Pastor:** Great God in Heaven, you sent your Son to take on our condition and, being sinless, to die for our sin. Raising him from death, you sent your Spirit to help us to understand things that are too beautiful for us even to see. We give you thanks for these beautiful and incomprehensible things which free us from fear and free us for service. Break us free from our chains, Lord, and bind us to your will, which your Son so humbly obeyed.

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."



## **The Lord's Prayer**

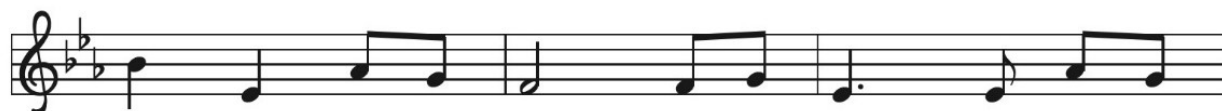
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

# Communion Hymn    Loaves Were Broken    ACS 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the  
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a  
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in  
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



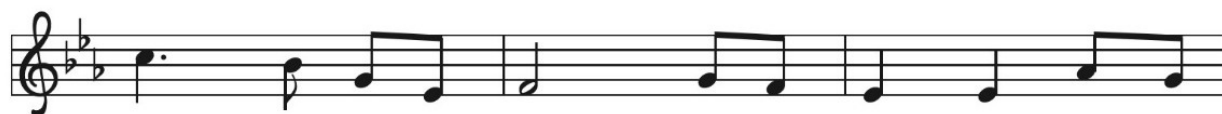
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from  
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you  
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the  
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.  
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

## Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now ACS 930

1 Three ho - ly days en - fold us now in wash - ing  
2 The mys - t'ry hid from a - ges past is here re -  
3 Christ, lift - ed high up - on the tree, be - fore you

feet and break - ing bread, in cross and font and  
vealed in word and sign, for Je - sus' sto - ry  
ev - 'ry knee shall bend and ev - 'ry tongue in

life re - newed: in Christ, God's first - born from the dead.  
is our own: new life through death is God's de - sign.  
praise pro - claim: "You are the Lord of all. A - men."

### The Prayer After Communion

**Pastor:** We give you thanks, Lord, that you have welcomed us, unworthy as we are, into your presence. Fill us with a gratitude born of the knowledge of your Son's sacrifice and send us forth to come to embrace the freedom and joy this sacrifice brings.

**All: Amen.**

*(The Altar is stripped after Holy Communion while Psalm 22 is said.  
Leave in silence)*

