



The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed

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St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Bonduel, Wisconsin

April 13, 2017

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Questions of the Passion

Our Lenten journey has focused on questions asked by Jesus and others during our Lord's final week of His life. Tonight's question, "Is it I?" takes us back to the upper room on the night our Lord was betrayed, Holy Thursday. When the Lord said, "One of you will betray me," each of His disciples, in repeating the one question, "Is it I?" thus responded with fear and sadness. Each of us, in varying ways throughout our lives and even today, has betrayed our Lord. Our inability and unwillingness to fear, love, and trust in Him above all things magnifies the importance of the very gift our Lord instituted for us on this night. Is there anyone who doesn't need Jesus' words and sacramental gift? "Take, eat; this is my body. Take, drink; this is my blood, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

Tonight's service unfolds in four parts.

- I. The Service of Confession and Absolution
- II. The Service of the Word
(The Passion Reading – Matthew 26; the sermon, "Is it I?")
- III. The Service of the Lord's Supper
- IV. The Stripping of the Altar
(Representing the depth of our Lord's servanthood, His being falsely tried, mocked, beaten, stripped, and crucified.)

Today's worship is simplified with restrained joy, and begins the three-day journey from death to life. There is no Benediction spoken at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service. The Benediction spoken on Easter Sunday concludes all the services of the Three Days.



THE SERVICE OF CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

ADDRESS, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the evil one — all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other. It is now our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord, on this, the night our Lord instituted and blessed the Lord's Supper for our salvation. It is to our benefit to first examine ourselves, as Paul urges us to do. The Meal is for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and pending death, who humbly confess their sins, fear His wrath, and hunger and thirst for the gift of Christ's righteousness.

When we examine ourselves, we see our sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Scripture teaches that there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. Christ did indeed come into this world to die for us, and here in the Supper with His Word, gives to us the very forgiveness we need — His very body and blood through the bread and the wine.

Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him, and love one another as He has loved us. On this night, Jesus exemplified His love also by washing the feet of His disciples, and so we by our words and actions serve one another in love.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father our Lord Jesus Christ, by his Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for Jesus' sake, to grant us forgiveness.

O almighty God, merciful Father, I a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserve 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.

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

Yes.

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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace. *1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

HYMN

The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
We celebrate with one accord;
It is our comfort in distress,
Our heart's sweet joy and happiness.

He blotted out with His own blood
The judgment that against us stood;
For us He full atonement made,
And all our debt He fully paid.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 24:3-11

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.” ⁴And 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. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then 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.” ⁸And 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.” ⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and 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. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

This is the Word of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

7:00pm

The Blood of Jesus

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD *St. Matthew 26*

When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, ²“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

⁶Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. ⁸And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? ⁹For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.”

¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. ¹³Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

¹⁴Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

¹⁷Now 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?” ¹⁸He 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.’” ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

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

²⁶Now 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.” ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I 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.”

³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’” ³²But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ³³Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” ³⁴Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” ³⁵Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” ³⁹And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” ⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴²Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” ⁴⁹And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. ⁵¹And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled.

⁵⁷Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹and said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy

the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.”⁶² And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?”⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.”⁶⁶ “What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.”⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him,⁶⁸ saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.”⁷¹ And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”⁷² And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.”⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.”⁷⁴ Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed.⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

This is the Passion of our Lord
Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

That this forever true shall be
He gives a solemn guarantee:
In this His holy Supper here
We taste His love so sweet, so near.

His Word proclaims and we believe
That in this Supper we receive
His very body, as He said,
His very blood for sinners shed.

SERMON

“IS IT I?” (MATTHEW 26:22)

OFFERING

Please complete the friendship register found at the end of the pew.

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

Amen.

HYMN

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth,
The guilt of sinners bearing
And, laden with the sins of earth,
None else the burden sharing;
Goes patient on, grows weak and faint,
To slaughter led without complaint,
That spotless life to offer,
He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies,
The mockery, and yet replies,
“All this I gladly suffer.”



The 10:00am service ends here without a benediction and continues on Good Friday.

All leave in silence.

The 7:00pm service continues with the Stripping of the Altar in preparation for Good Friday. There is no benediction, as our worship continues on Good Friday.

All leave in silence.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

In this ancient ceremony, the communion vessels, the lectionary Bible, the altar cross, the missal stand, altar candles, altar paraments, pulpit and lectern paraments, chancel candles, and flowers are removed. This represents the depth of our Lord's servanthood, His being falsely tried, mocked, beaten, stripped, and crucified. Psalm 22 is spoken.

PSALM 22

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our fathers trusted,
they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me,
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

"He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.

Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax; it is melted with in my breast;
my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—

I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

But you, O Lord, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!

Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not
hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

For kingship belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.

All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep

himself alive.

Posterity shall serve him;

it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.



Acknowledgments

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GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

1:30 and 7:00pm

EASTER MORNING SERVICES

with Holy Communion

6:00, 8:00, and 10:15am

Note for those desiring to commune... Our practice of close communion is the Biblical and historic practice of the Christian church. It is prompted by love, both for God's Word and for His people since it seeks to prevent spiritual damage to those who do not recognize the true body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine in this Holy Supper (1 Cor. 11:29). Furthermore, it does not deny that members of other denominations are Christians. Rather, it bows the knee to the Bible's deep concern for doctrinal truth (Romans 16:17) and the Bible's witness that the Lord's Supper is the highest expression of fellowship and doctrinal unity (Acts 2:42). For this reason, guests who are not a member of a sister LCMS congregation are asked to speak to a pastor before communing.



And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" Matthew 26:22