



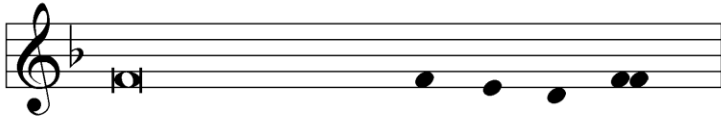
Thursday, April 6, 2023
Maundy Thursday

Service Theme: BLESSED COMMUNION

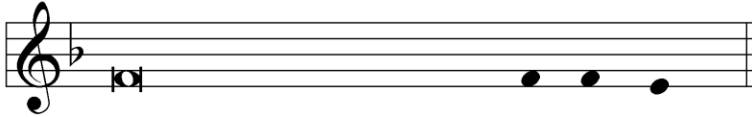
We often think of the word communion as a synonym for the Lord's Supper. "I took communion" means "I received the Lord's Supper." Yet, the Latin word behind "communion" means "community, association, or sharing." When people come together and share their lives with one another, the result is a blessed communion. And when God comes to us and shares himself with us, the result is eternal life. But is that really possible? How can a holy God associate with people who sin every day? In a miraculous meal, God lets us share in his own body and blood, the very blood that was shed to atone for our sin. We celebrate this feast for the forgiveness of sins and restored unity with our Father—a blessed communion with God. But there's more! As we share this meal together, the Lord who loved us unites us in love for one another—a blessed communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Community is often celebrated with food. When people love one another, they enjoy gathering around the dinner table. On this Holy Thursday, Jesus invites us to his table. He serves us Supper. He serves us himself. And in doing so, Jesus creates a blessed communion.

Service of Light – Adapted

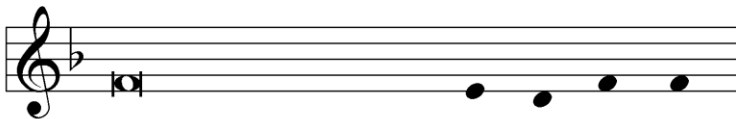
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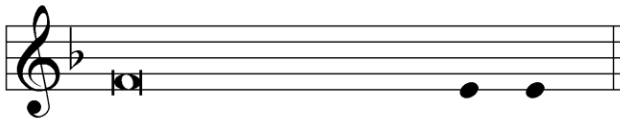
M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



C: the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



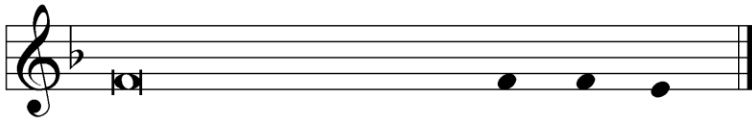
M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning,



C: and the day is almost o - ver.



M: Be our light and scat - ter the dark-ness,



C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, In you the
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth; The lamps are
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of



Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
God, life - giv - ing Lord; Where-fore you are through



blest is he, And blest are you, his on - ly Son.
Spir - it: God Who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth And in the high - est heav'n a - dored.

M: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing



up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I



call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I



cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

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.

1st Lesson

Exodus 24:1-11 (EHV)

Israel had promised to obey God's Law. They did not. So how were these lawbreakers able to commune with a holy God? They were sprinkled with the blood of the covenant.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, along with Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship me from a distance. ²Only Moses is allowed to come near the LORD, but the others are not to come near, and the people are not to go up with him."

³Moses came and reported to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances. Then all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do." ⁴Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD.

He got up early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain. He set up twelve memorial stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵He sent young Israelite men, who offered whole burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings of cattle to the LORD. ⁶Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and he splashed half of the blood on the altar. ⁷He took the Book of the Covenant and read it out loud to the people and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do. We will obey."

⁸Moses took the blood and splashed it on the people. He said, "Look, here is the blood of the covenant, which the LORD made with you by means of all these words."

⁹Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up. ¹⁰They saw the God of Israel. Under his feet they saw what looked like a pavement of sapphire as clear as the sky. ¹¹The LORD did not lay his hand on the dignitaries of the people of Israel. They gazed at God, and they ate and drank.

Hymn

CW 361:1-2 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ, our God, to earth descending,
Comes our homage to command.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human likeness,
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.**

Gospel

John 13:1-15,34 (EHV)

Just as Christ loved us with service and sacrifice, so he commands us to love one another as part of a blessed communion.

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved those who were his own in the world, he loved them to the end.

²By the time the supper took place, the Devil had already put the idea into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

³Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God. ⁴He got up from the supper and laid aside his outer garment. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷Jesus answered him, "You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand."

⁸Peter told him, "You will never, ever, wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹"Lord, not just my feet," Simon Peter replied, "but also my hands and my head!"

¹⁰Jesus told him, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet, but his body is completely clean. And you are clean, but not all of you." ¹¹Indeed, he knew who was going to betray him. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer garment, he reclined at the table again. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me Teacher and Lord. You are right, because I am. ¹⁴Now if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵Yes, I have given you an example so that you also would do just as I have done for you.

³⁴"A new commandment I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so also you are to love one another.

This Is My Will



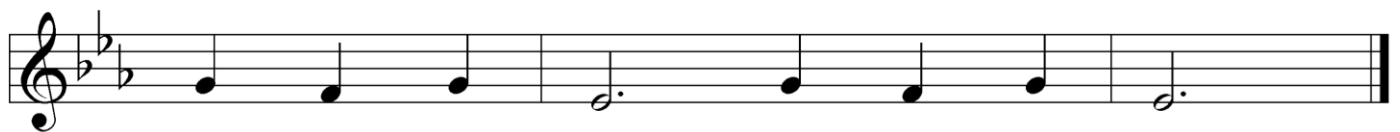
1 "This is my will, my one com - mand,
 2 "No great - er love can an - y have
 3 "I call you now no long - er slaves;
 4 "You chose not me, but I chose you,
 5 "All that you ask my Fa - ther dear



That love should dwell a - mong you all.
 Than that one die to save his friends.
 No slave knows all the mas - ter does.
 That you should go and bear much fruit.
 For my name's sake you shall re - ceive.



This is my will, that you should love
 You are my friends if you o - bey
 I call you friends, for all I hear
 I chose you out that you in me
 This is my will, my one com - mand,



As I have shown that I love you.
 What I com - mand that you should do.
 My Fa - ther say, you hear from me.
 Should bear much fruit that will a - bide.
 That love should dwell in each, in all."

Sermon Text

1 Corinthians 11:23-28 (EHV)

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after the meal, he also took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the Lord's body and blood. ²⁸Instead, let a person examine himself and after doing so, let him eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

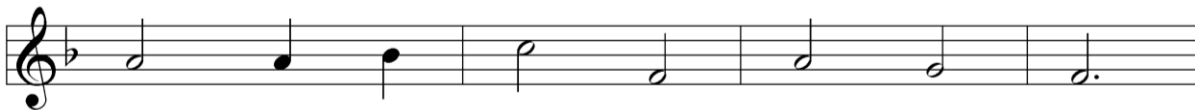
Sermon Theme: Holy Communion

1) What is it? 2) How does the LORD want us to partake of it?

136 'Twas on that Dark, that Doleful Night



1 'Twas on that dark, that dole - ful night
2 Be - fore the mourn - ful scene be - gan,
3 "This is my bod - y, slain for sin;
4 "Do this," he said, "till time shall end,
5 Je - sus, your feast we cel - e - brate;



When pow'rs of earth and hell a - rose
He took the bread and blessed and broke.
Re - ceive and eat the liv - ing food."
In mem - 'ry of your dy - ing friend;
We show your death; we sing your name



A - gainst the Son, our God's de - light,
What love through all his ac - tions ran!
Then took the cup and blessed the wine:
Meet at my ta - ble and re - cord
Till you re - turn and we shall eat



And friends be - trayed him to his foes.
What won - drous words of grace he spoke!
"Tis the new cov - 'nant in my blood."
The love of your de - part - ed Lord."
The mar - riage sup - per of the Lamb.

Prayer of the Church and Lord's Prayer

Eternal Savior, we are gathered in the quiet of this holy evening as you gathered with your disciples long ago. We are here to grasp how wide and long and high and deep your love is and to know this love that surpasses knowledge.

It was love for sinners that made you go willingly to the cross. Swords could have been drawn to protect you and angels summoned to deliver you; yet you did not allow it, because you were determined to make your life a guilt offering, the guiltless for the guilty. May we depend on nothing other than your willing love for the removal of our guilt and the forgiveness of our sins.

It was self-giving love that made you take the role of a servant and stoop to wash your disciples' feet in the upper room. You set an example by which you would shatter pride and create humble servants out of all who follow you. By your love shatter our pride and make us always more willing to serve than to be served.

It was love for your Father in heaven that prompted you to enter the garden and approach his throne in prayer. There you sought grace and mercy in your time of need. There he strengthened you to do the work for which you were destined. Teach us to go to our heavenly Father in every need, as you did. Bless us with the grace and mercy to live out our lives in obedience and faith.

It was love for your disciples in every age that caused you to institute Holy Communion. In the mystery and wonder of this sacrament, you give us your own body and blood. Through this heavenly feast, assure us of forgiveness, life, and salvation and unite us with the Church above.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Lord, may your body and your blood be for our souls the highest good. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Hymn of Preparation

CWS 743:1-3 "O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing"
(see next page)

743 O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing



1 O gra-cious Lord, I firm-ly am be-liev-ing
 2 Lord, I have sinned, a thou-sand times of-fend-ing;
 3 You see my sin, yet seat me at your ta-ble;
 4 O Lamb of God, my faith-ful, lov-ing Sav-ior,
 5 Heav-en-ly Bread, my life and ben-e-dic-tion,



Your bound-less love will bless each faith-ful soul,
 My thank-less thoughts and words and deeds e-raise,
 Lord, as a guest, I sure-ly am the least:
 You I em-brace in faith and ho-ly love;
 This cup you give can take a-way each ill.



As from this al-tar we are here re-ceiv-ing
 To me your hand of mer-cy now ex-tend-ing,
 Un-clean, un-fit, of wor-thy deeds un-a-ble—
 Grant me the strength to show by my be-hav-ior
 Come and re-lieve my soul from all af-flic-tion;



Your bod-y and your blood to make us whole,
 O God, my Sav-ior, I im-plore your grace,
 My heart pre-pare for this most ho-ly feast,
 A life now hid-den in your reign a-bove,
 Calm ev-'ry sigh un-til my heart is still,



Your bod-y and your blood to make us whole.
 O God, my Sav-ior, I im-plore your grace.
 My heart pre-pare for this most ho-ly feast.
 A life now hid-den in your reign a-bove.
 Calm ev-'ry sigh un-til my heart is still.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

M: Before we partake of the Lord's Supper, let us come before Christ in humility and repentance, for God's Word says: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us:

C: But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

M: In this confidence let us humbly make our confession in the words of Psalm 51:
Have mercy on me, O God,

C: According to your unfailing love.

M: Wash away all my iniquity,

C: And cleanse me from my sin.

M: For I know my transgressions,

C: And my sin is always before me.

M: Against you, you only, have I sinned

C: And done what is evil in your sight.

M: Surely I was sinful at birth.

C: Sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

M: Hide your face from my sins,

C: And blot out all my iniquity.

M: Jesus says to his people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world." Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are dear children of God and heirs of eternal life.

C: Amen

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: As repentant and forgiven sinners, we now come to meet with our Lord.

Hymn of Trust:

CWS 743:4-5 "O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing"
(See the previous hymn)

Distribution

THANKSGIVING

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part



ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen



your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry



peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

319

On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus,



King of grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Have no



pow'r to hide your face. This the su - per - scrip - tion be:



Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my life, my



hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

Please join us tomorrow at 10:30 AM for our special Good Friday Service and on Sunday at 8 and 10:30 AM for two special Easter services with a fellowship breakfast in between!



Divine Word

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