



Sunday, March 28, 2024
Maundy Thursday

Service Theme
RETHINKING OUR APPETITES

We use the word “appetite” to describe a powerful desire for something. So, what is it you crave the most? Where does your mind go in those quiet moments? What do you want? Power? What do you dream about? Prestige? For what do you hunger? Pleasure? Are our appetites healthy? A truly healthy appetite is one that aligns with our deepest needs: forgiveness, salvation, communion with God, loving relationships with others. The believer is ravenous for such things! And all of those blessings are on the menu of the Lord’s Supper. Some view Holy Communion as just a religious ritual. Far from it! In this meal, Christ satisfies our greatest appetites.

Service of Light – Adapted

(CW page 54)

Please Stand

M: *(Sing)* Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

C: *(Sing)* the light no darkness can overcome.

M: *(Sing)* Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: *(Sing)* and the day is almost over.

M: *(Sing)* Be our light and scatter the darkness,

C: *(Sing)* and hear our evening hymn of praise.

(Candles may be lighted as this hymn is sung.)

**1 O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ,
In you the Father's glory shone.
Immortal, holy, blest is he,
And blest are you, his only Son.**

**2 Now sunset comes, but light shines forth;
The lamps are lit to pierce the night.
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God
Who dwells in the eternal light.**

**3 Worthy are you of endless praise,
O Son of God, life-giving Lord;
Wherefore you are through all the earth
And in the highest heav'n adored.**

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.

Please Be Seated

Let My Prayer Rise Before You

Psalm 141

C: *(Sing)* **Let my prayer rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to you.**

Let my prayer rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

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.

First Lesson

Exodus 12:21-30 (EHV)

Pharoah hungered for slave labor for Egypt. Israel was starving for salvation. The LORD satisfied that hunger through the Passover meal.

²¹Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take lambs for yourselves according to your family size, and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²²You shall take a bundle of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and paint the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you are to go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³When the LORD passes through to strike Egypt and sees the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

²⁴"You shall observe these instructions as a perpetual regulation for you and your descendants. ²⁵When you enter the land that the LORD will give you just as he said he would, you shall observe this ceremony.

²⁶So when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ ²⁷you will say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Passover to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. When he struck the Egyptians, he spared our houses.’ ”

The people bowed down and worshipped. ²⁸The Israelites went and did all this. They did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

²⁹At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon, even all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰During the night Pharaoh got up—he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians—and there was a loud outcry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not someone dead.

Hymn

CWS 714 “The Lamb”

**1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where’s the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!**

Refrain

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne.**

**2 The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav’n his praise to sing.**

Refrain

**3 The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, his will,
On our behalf the law to fill.**

Refrain

**4 He sighs, he dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me his own righteousness.**

Refrain

**5 He rose, he rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
'Til ev'ry heart to him belong.**

Refrain

Gospel Lesson
Mark 14:12-26 (EHV)

Judas' appetite for money would lead him to betray Jesus. Jesus hungered for our salvation. So, on this night, he instituted the Lord's Supper.

¹²On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, 'Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

¹⁶His disciples left and went into the city and found things just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷When it was evening, he arrived with the Twelve.

¹⁸While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, "Amen I tell you: One of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and said to him one by one, "Surely not I?"

²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me in the dish. ²¹Indeed, the Son of Man is going to go just as it has been written about 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."

²²While they were eating, Jesus took bread. When he had blessed it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "Take it. This is my body."

²³Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them. They all drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, "This is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Amen I tell you: I will certainly not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." ²⁶After they sang a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Hymn

CW 136 'Twas on that Dark, that Doleful Night

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

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

**3 "This is my body, slain for sin;
Receive and eat the living food."
Then took the cup and blessed the wine:
"Tis the new cov'nant in my blood."**

4 **“Do this,” he said, “till time shall end,
In mem’ry of your dying friend;
Meet at my table and record
The love of your departed Lord.”**

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

Sermon Text & Theme

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 ... Holy Communion

- 1) *Unites us to Christ.*
- 2) *Unites us with each other.*

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

Hymn

CW 740 Draw Near

Refrain

**Draw near, draw near! Take the body of your Lord.
Draw near, draw near! Drink the blood for you
outpoured!**

**1 Draw near and take the body of your Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Saved by his body and his holy blood,
With souls refreshed we give our thanks to God.**

Refrain

**2 Christ our Redeemer, God's eternal Son,
Has by his cross and blood the vict'ry won.
He gave his life for greatest and for least,
Himself the off'ring and himself the Priest.**

Refrain

**3 Let us approach with faithful hearts sincere
And take the pledges of salvation here.
Christ, who in this life all the saints defends,
Gives all believers life that never ends.**

Refrain

**4 With heav'nly bread he makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
Lord of the nations, to whom all must bow,
In this great feast of love be with us now.**

Refrain

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”

**1 O gracious Lord, I firmly am believing
Your boundless love will bless each faithful soul,
As from this altar we are here receiving
Your body and your blood to make us whole,
Your body and your blood to make us whole.**

**2 Lord, I have sinned, a thousand times offending;
My thankless thoughts and words and deeds erase,
To me your hand of mercy now extending,
O God, my Savior, I implore your grace,
O God, my Savior, I implore your grace.**

**3 You see my sin, yet seat me at your table;
Lord, as a guest, I surely am the least:
Unclean, unfit, of worthy deeds unable—
My heart prepare for this most holy feast,
My heart prepare for this most holy feast.**

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"

**4 O Lamb of God, my faithful, loving Savior,
You I embrace in faith and holy love;
Grant me the strength to show by my behavior
A life now hidden in your reign above,
A life now hidden in your reign above.**

**5 Heavenly Bread, my life and benediction,
This cup you give can take away each ill.
Come and relieve my soul from all affliction;
Calm ev'ry sigh until my heart is still,
Calm ev'ry sigh until my heart is still.**

Distribution

Thanksgiving

**M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
C: And his mercy endures forever.**

Song of Simeon & Blessing
(CW p. 61)

**C: (Sing) In peace, Lord, you let your servant now
depart according to your word. For my eyes have
seen your salvation, which you have prepared for
ev'ry people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the
glory of your people Israel.**

**M: (Sing) The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the
love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be
with you all.**

C: (Sing) Amen.

Hymn

CW 319 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

**On my heart imprint your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Have no pow'r to hide your face.
This the superscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation.**

***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!***



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