

Thursday, April 17, 2025
Maundy Thursday

Service Theme

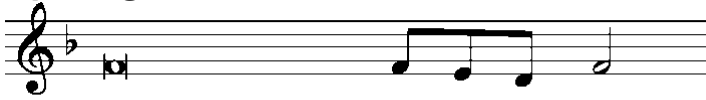
A NEW TESTAMENT REPLACES AN OLD COVENANT

On Thursday of Holy Week, Jesus began to execute the terms of the New Testament. This new covenant replaced an old one and was fundamentally different from it every way. While the Old Covenant was more like a contract, the New Testament is more like a will. The old offers rewards in return for work; the new makes unconditional and lasting promises. The old will always leave us starving in our relationship with God; the new satisfies the deepest hunger of our soul. This is precisely why Jesus connected this new covenant with a special meal. To an uninformed outsider, the Lord's Supper looks like a poor snack—a bite of bread and sip of wine. But the followers of Christ understand that this holy food provides all the blessings of the new covenant/testament.

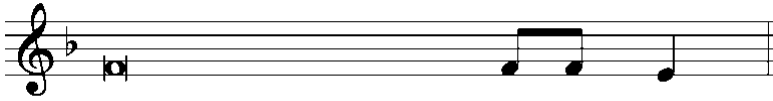
Service of Light – Adapted

CW 215

Opening Sentences



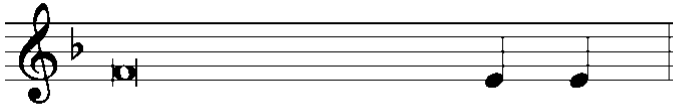
Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



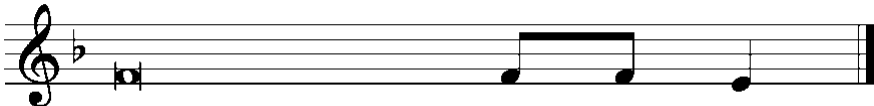
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,



and the day is almost o - ver.




Be our light and scat - ter the darkness,



and hear our evening prayer and praise.

(Candles may be lighted as the following hymn is sung.)



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.

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.

Amen.

Psalm 141

CW 217

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.

Tune: David Schack

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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.

Amen.

Old Testament

Exodus 12:1–14

The Passover was instituted to commemorate how the LORD delivered His people from slavery in Egypt.

'The LORD told Moses and Aaron this in the land of Egypt:

²This month is to be the beginning of your calendar. It is to be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the entire Israelite community that on the tenth day of this month, they are to take a lamb or a young goat for themselves, according to their fathers' households, one lamb per household. ⁴But if the household is too small for a whole lamb, then that person and his neighbor next door to him must select one, based on the number of people. Determine what size lamb is needed according to how much each person will eat.

⁵Your lamb must be unblemished, a year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or the goats. ⁶You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of this month. Then the whole assembly of the Israelite community is to slaughter the lambs at sunset. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where they eat the lamb. ⁸That night they shall eat the meat that has been roasted over a fire, along with unleavened bread. They shall eat it with bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over a fire, with its head, its legs, and its internal organs. ¹⁰You shall not leave any of it until the morning. Whatever remains until the morning, you shall burn in the fire. ¹¹This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt ready for travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.

¹²For on that night I will pass through the land of Egypt. I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both people and animals. Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment. I am the LORD. ¹³The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. There will be no plague among you to destroy you when I strike down the land of Egypt.

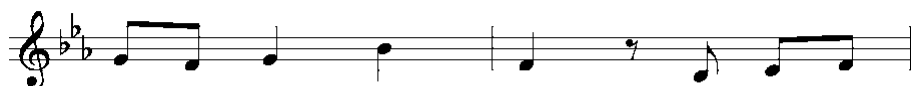
¹⁴This day shall be a memorial for you, and you are to celebrate it as a festival to the LORD. Throughout your generations you must celebrate it as a permanent regulation.

418 The Blood of the Lamb

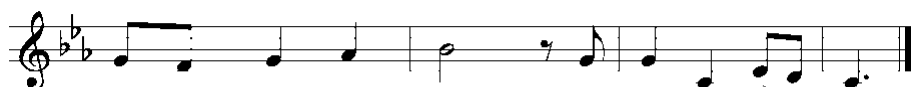
CW 418



1 The Fa - ther sees his chil - dren's chains. From Phar - aoh's
 2 The lamb is slain as sun is set— a per - fect
 3 As mid - night looms, the hour of death, God seeks the
 4 Chil - dren of God, we too were slaves: our mas - ter—



land they cry in pain. To res - cue
 lamb, with - out de - fect. They stain their
 first - born, steals their breath, but pass - es
 sin! Our end— the grave! But free - dom



them, he makes a way: the blood of the lamb.
 doors with in - no - cence: the blood of the lamb.
 o'er doors drenched in red: the blood of the lamb.
 came in crim - son shades: the blood of the Lamb.

- 5 This perfect Lamb is Jesus Christ.
 He gave himself as sacrifice.
 His life poured out, the final price:
 the blood of the Lamb.
- 6 The blood he spilled, the life he spent,
 he gives us now in sacrament.
 Eternal life on Christ depends:
 the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965

Tune: Sarah R. Lambrecht, b. 1975

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Epistle

Hebrews 10:15–25

Since the New Covenant perfectly satisfies our spiritual hunger, it enables us to confidently draw near to God.

¹⁵The Holy Spirit also testifies in Scripture to us, for first he said:

¹⁶This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, says the Lord.

I will put my laws on their hearts
and I will write them on their mind.

¹⁷Then he adds:

And I will not remember their sins and their lawlessness any longer.

¹⁸Now where these sins are forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

¹⁹Brothers, we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place through the blood of Jesus. ²⁰It is a new and living way he opened for us through the curtain, that is, his flesh.

²¹We also have a great priest over the house of God. ²²So let us approach with a sincere heart, in the full confidence of faith, because our hearts have been sprinkled to take away a bad conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold on firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful.

²⁴Let us also consider carefully how to spur each other on to love and good works. ²⁵Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

417 It Was a Dark and Dismal Night CW 417

- 1 It was a dark and dismal 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:
"This is my all-atoning 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.**

⁷The day of Unleavened Bread arrived, when it was necessary to sacrifice the Passover lamb. ⁸Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go prepare the Passover for us, so that we may eat it.”

⁹They said to him, “Where do you want us to prepare it?”

¹⁰He told them, “Just as you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters. ¹¹Tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?”’ ¹²He will show you a large, furnished upper room. Make preparations there.”

¹³They went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles. ¹⁵He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

¹⁷He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, ¹⁸for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

¹⁹He took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰In the same way, he took the cup after the supper, saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is being poured out for you.”

Sermon Theme . . . The Lord prepares a special Supper

- 1) It is a meal of remembrance
- 2) It is a promise of salvation

662 Draw Near

CW 66

2



Draw near, draw near! Take the bod - y of your Lord.



Draw near, draw near! Drink the blood for you out-poured!



- 1 Draw near and take the bod - y of your Lord,
- 2 Christ our Re - deem - er, God's e - ter - nal Son,
- 3 Let us ap - proach with faith - ful hearts sin - cere
- 4 With heav'n - ly bread he makes the hun - gry whole,



and drink the ho - ly blood for you out-poured.
has by his cross and blood the vic - t'ry won.
and take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.
gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.



Saved by his bod - y and his ho - ly blood,
He gave his life for great - est and for least,
Christ, who in this life all the saints de - fends,
Lord of the na - tions, to whom all must bow,



with souls re - fresh - ed we give our thanks to God.
him - self the of - f'ring and him - self the priest.
gives all be - liev - ers life that nev - er ends.
in this great feast of love be with us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent., abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Tune: Steven R. Janco, b. 1961

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Prayer of the Church

Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb of God, pictured in the ancient Passover feast, and you have fulfilled all things by giving your own body and pouring out your own blood on the cross. Just as the Passover lambs assured the Israelites of God's promise to deliver them from death,

strengthen our belief that the bread is your real body and the wine is your real blood, given to us for our forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Prepare us to receive this sacrament remembering your death and repenting of our sins.

Unite us by our oneness of faith throughout this congregation and our synod, and love us to the end that we may love others as you have loved us.

We rejoice in our fellow believers who have been instructed in your Word and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, who are now ready to receive Holy Communion.

Equip them with every spiritual blessing for doing your will.

We pray for those absent from the sacrament because of their own neglect.

Call them in your mercy to return and renew their faith.

Keep in your care those unable to receive the sacrament often because they are homebound, hospitalized, imprisoned, serving in the military, or otherwise separated from the fellowship of believers. Encourage them so that they do not lose hope.

Be gracious to us all and nourish us with this feast, that we remain faithful unto death, and become partakers of the wedding feast of the Lamb. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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-ceive-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

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 *previous hymn*)

Distribution

Thanksgiving

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

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

Song of Simeon



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

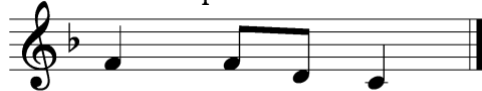


and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Blessing



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.



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.



A - men.

405 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

CW 405



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.



Let the clear in - 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.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: Johann B. König, 1691–1758

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Holy Week Schedule at Divine Word

April 17

7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion

April 18

10:30 AM – Good Friday Service (no Communion)

April 20

8:00 AM – Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion

9:00 AM – Easter Breakfast

10:30 AM – Easter Late Service (no Communion)



Divine Word

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