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**Thursday, April 2, 2026**  
**Maundy Thursday**

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Service Theme

**Jesus' Cup of Suffering Fills our Cup with  
Blessing**

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus instituted the special meal of Holy Communion: a sacrament that not only offers us the very body and blood Jesus used to win our salvation on the cross, but also the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. How can the Lord's Supper offer us such amazing things? All because of Christ's promise and work He connected to this sacrament. Jesus drank the cup of suffering His Father gave Him so that, in Holy Communion, our plate and cup might be filled with wonderful blessings.

## Invocation

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

**Amen.**

## Opening Sentences

On this night, Christ Jesus gathered with His disciples in the upper room

**And ate with the one who would betray Him.**

On this night, Christ, the suffering servant, took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, saying:

**A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.**

On this night, Christ our Lord gave us His Holy Supper.

**That we who eat this bread and drink this cup may proclaim His death, receive His body and blood, have His forgiveness, and on the Last Day share in His resurrection.**

On this night Christ, the Lamb of God, gave Himself into the hands of those who would slay Him.

**And was abandoned by those who follow Him.**

## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# 417 It Was a Dark and Dismal Night

CW 417 sts. 1-4



1 It was a dark and dismal night when pow'rs of  
2 Be - fore the mourn - ful scene be - gan, he took the  
3 "This is my bod - y, slain for sin; re - ceive and  
4 "Do this," he said, "till time shall end, in mem - 'ry



earth and hell a - rose a - gainst the Son, our  
bread and blessed and broke. What love through all his  
eat the liv - ing food." Then took the cup and  
of your dy - ing friend; meet at my ta - ble



God's de - light, and friends be - trayed him to his foes.  
ac - tions ran! What won - drous words of grace he spoke!  
blessed the wine: "This is my all - a - ton - ing blood."  
and re - cord the love of your de - part - ed Lord."

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, abr., alt. Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-c. 1561. Text and tune: Public domain

## Reading

Mark 14:12-26

<sup>12</sup>On 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?" <sup>13</sup>He 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. <sup>14</sup>Wherever 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?' <sup>15</sup>He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

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

<sup>17</sup>When it was evening, he arrived with the Twelve.

<sup>18</sup>While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Amen I tell you: One of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”

<sup>19</sup>They began to be sorrowful and said to him one by one, “Surely not I?”

<sup>20</sup>He said to them, “It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me in the dish. <sup>21</sup>Indeed, 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.”

<sup>22</sup>While 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.”

<sup>23</sup>Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them. They all drank from it. <sup>24</sup>He said to them, “This is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many.

<sup>25</sup>Amen 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.” <sup>26</sup>After they sang a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

## 417 It Was a Dark and Dismal Night

CW 417 st. 5

5 Je - sus, your feast we cel - e - brate; we show your  
death; we sing your name till you re - turn and  
we shall eat the mar - riage sup - per of the Lamb.

## Reading

*Mark 14:32–42*

<sup>32</sup>They went to a place named Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” <sup>33</sup>Then he took Peter, James, and John along with him and began to be troubled and distressed. <sup>34</sup>He said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, even to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch.”

<sup>35</sup>Going forward a little, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>He also said, “Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

<sup>37</sup>When he returned to the disciples, he found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Were you not strong enough to keep watch for one hour?

<sup>38</sup>Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

<sup>39</sup>Again he went away and prayed, saying the same thing. <sup>40</sup>When he returned, he found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. They did not know what they should answer him. <sup>41</sup>He returned the third time and said to them, “Are you going to continue sleeping and resting? It is enough. The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Rise, let us go. Look, my betrayer is near.”

# 424 The Garden of Gethsemane

CW 424



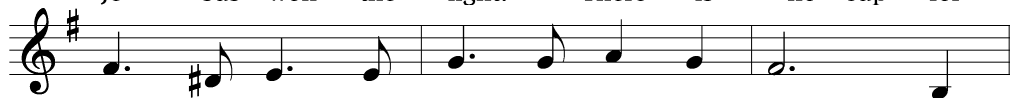
1 The Gar - den of Geth - sem - a - ne— they'd of - ten gath - ered  
 2 Geth - sem - a - ne's se - ren - i - ty, so pleas - ant in the  
 3 Geth - sem - a - ne's in - ten - si - ty, re - vealed in blood - like  
 4 Geth - sem - a - ne's im - men - si - ty can still be seen to -  
 5 Geth - sem - a - ne's tran - quil - i - ty re - turned a - gain that



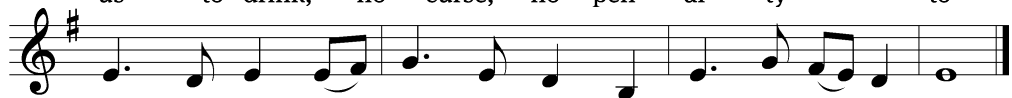
there, the Christ and his dis - ci - ple friends, the  
 past, was shat - tered by a pierc - ing cry. Our  
 sweat, led Christ to pray, for he would pay sin's  
 day. The Fa - ther's will was crys - tal clear: "There  
 night; the con - flict moved to Cal - va - ry, where



sheep be - neath his care. But when the Shep - herd  
 Sav - ior stood a - ghist— to see the curse in -  
 aw - ful, crush - ing debt. "My Fa - ther, find an -  
 is no oth - er way! Move on, my Son; your  
 Je - sus won the fight. There is no cup for



need - ed them—"Come, watch and pray with me"— their  
 side the cup, to sense what soon would be un -  
 oth - er way to set the sin - ner free. Your  
 death a - lone can save hu - man - i - ty." So,  
 us to drink, no curse, no pen - al - ty— to



heav - y hearts and eyes pre-vailed in dark Geth-sem-a - ne.  
 leashed a-against his sin - less soul be - yond Geth-sem-a - ne.  
 will, not mine, be done," he said in sad Geth-sem-a - ne.  
 bound and des - tined for the cross, Christ left Geth-sem-a - ne.  
 know the lav - ish love of God, re - call Geth-sem-a - ne!

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963. Tune: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

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## Sermon Text & Theme

Hebrews 5:7-9

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, he offered prayers and pleas with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. <sup>8</sup>Although he was the Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. <sup>9</sup>After he was brought to his goal, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him.

### Jesus is our sympathetic High Priest.

*He willingly drank the cup of suffering to fill our cup with blessing.*

## 425 Go to Dark Gethsemane

CW 425



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the  
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing  
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his

tempt - er's pow'r; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,  
life ar - rained. Oh, the worm - wood and the gall,  
at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
breath - less clay; all is sol - i - tude and gloom.

watch with him one bit - ter hour. Turn not from his  
oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,  
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He

griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
pain, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

## Prayer of the Church

Lord God, heavenly Father, author of the everlasting covenant and giver of the cup of salvation,

**We gather in your courts to offer you our sacrifice of thanksgiving.**

For fulfilling your promise to establish a new covenant through the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ,

**We give you humble and hearty thanks.**

As our Lord Jesus Christ gave thanks to you when he broke the bread, as he gave thanks to you when he took the cup,

**We also give you thanks.**

Precious Savior, both Priest and offering, awe and wonder fill our hearts as we partake of your body, broken for us, and your blood, shed for us.

**We praise you, bless you, and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In our poverty of righteousness, we have nothing to offer. Without your tremendous sacrifice, we would still be in our sins,

**But through your sacrament of the New Testament, we are assured that our iniquities are forgiven and our sins are no longer remembered.**

O Holy Spirit, dwell within us as we remember our Lord's death in this sacrament. Enter our hearts to strengthen our faith and fill us with gratitude for your great mercy.

**Move us to encourage one another to love and to do good works.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

As our Lord served his disciples by washing their feet, so may we also humbly serve one another.

**Help us live our lives as sacrifices of thanksgiving to him who first loved us. 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-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.

## Confession and Absolution

My fellow disciples, in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is coming to us in a very special way: as we receive the bread and the wine of communion, Jesus is present to give us his actual body and blood, and to pronounce forgiveness to each one of us personally. Because of the Lord's presence and his forgiveness in communion, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28) Therefore, before the Lord comes to meet with us, let us honestly ask ourselves before God who knows our hearts:

- 1) Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his anger and punishment? If so, then answer, "I do confess!"

### **I do confess!**

It is good for you to confess because God's word says, "*When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*" (Psalm 32:3)

- 2) Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God by things you have done, said and thought, and by the things you have failed to do? If so, then answer, "I do repent!"

### **I do repent!**

It is right for you to repent because God's Word says, "*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not within us.*" (1 John 1:8)

- 3) Do you now believe that God will forgive you and save you for the sake of Jesus' perfect life and redeeming death? If so, then answer, "I do believe!"

### **I do believe!**

It is right for you to believe because Jesus himself says, “*God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*” (John 3:16)

- 4) Do you now promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to make every effort to turn away from sin and live for your Lord? If so, then answer, “I do so promise!”

**I do so promise!**

It is right for you to promise because God’s Word says, “*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*” (Matthew 3:8)

### **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.”

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**

## Hymn after Distribution

### 673 O Lord, We Praise You

CW 673 sts. 1-2

1 O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and adore you,  
2 Your ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,  
in thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore you. Here with your  
life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er  
bod - y and your blood you nour - ish our weak souls that  
love than this to you could bind us; may this feast of  
they may flour - ish. O Lord, have mer - cy!  
that re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!  
May your bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, that our  
Lord, your love and kind - ness did move you; let your  
sins and sor - rows did car - ry, and your blood for us plead  
sup - per move us to love you. All our debt you have paid;  
in all tri - al, fear, and need. O Lord, have mer - cy!  
peace with God once more is made. O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (st. 2): Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter, alt.

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## Prayer for Peace

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in loving kindness you sent Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen.**

## 673 O Lord, We Praise You

CW 673 st. 3

3 May God be - stow on us his grace and fa - vor  
that we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior and live to -  
geth - er here in love and un - ion, nor de - spise this  
blest com - mun - ion. O Lord, have mer - cy!

The musical score is written on four staves of a treble clef. The first staff begins with a '3' indicating a triplet. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: '3 May God be - stow on us his grace and fa - vor that we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior and live to - geth - er here in love and un - ion, nor de - spise this blest com - mun - ion. O Lord, have mer - cy!'.

Let not your good Spir - it for - sake us; grant that  
heav'n - ly - mind - ed he make us. Give your Church, Lord, to see  
days of peace and u - ni - ty. O Lord, have mer - cy!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line and ends with a double bar line.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter, alt.  
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## **Holy Week Schedule at Divine Word**

### ***April 2***

7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion

### ***April 3***

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

### ***April 5***

8:00 AM – Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion

9:00 AM – Easter Breakfast

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

3:00 PM – Easter Service at Our Shepherd in Poltimore, QC



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