

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

- Welcome to worship! Welcome to all those joining us via our Live Stream and our Listen to Church Service
- If you are joining us from home, I invite you to gather some bread and wine/juice so you can join us in celebrating Holy Communion this evening.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand for our shared confession:

Friends in Christ,

in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil – all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

**so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the grace and mercy of almighty God,

Jesus Christ was given to die for us,

and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN **When Twilight Comes 566**

1 When twilight comes and the sun sets,
 mother hen prepares for night's rest.
 As her brood shelters under her wings,

 she gives the love of God to her nest.
 Oh! what joy to feel her warm heartbeat
 and be near her all night long;

so the young can find repose,
then renew tomorrow's song.

- 2 One day the Rabbi, Lord Jesus,
called the twelve to share his last meal.
As the hen tends her young, so for them
he spent himself to seek and to heal.
Oh! what joy to be with Christ Jesus,
hear his voice, oh! sheer delight,
and receive his servant care:

all before the coming night.

- 3 So gather round once again, friends,
touched by fading glow of sun's gold,
and recount all our frail human hopes:
the dreams of young and stories of old.
Oh! what joy to pray close together,
kneeling as one family,
by a mother's love embraced
in the blessed Trinity.

Text: Moises B. Andrade, b. 1948; tr. James Minchin, b. 1942
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

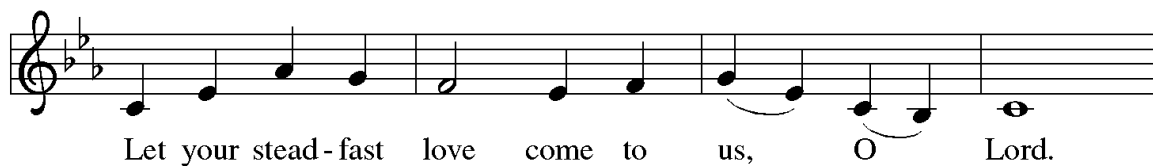
And also with you.

Let us pray,

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

LENTEN ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 26:17-30

The holy gospel according Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷ On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸ He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

²⁰ When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, ²¹ and while they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²² And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” ²³ He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” ²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Sarah Miller

HYMN OF THE DAY Great God, Your Love Has Called Us 358:1, 4,5

<p>1 Great God, your love has called us here as we, by love, for love were made. Your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, disobeyed. We come, with all our heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.</p> <p>4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and humble us, and call us friends. Suffer and serve till all are fed,</p>	<p>and show how grandly love intends to work till all creation sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.</p> <p>5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your joy to share. Give us your Spirit's liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair, and offer all that faith can do while love is making all things new.</p>
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Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Reader*

On this night when Jesus shared a meal of love and grace, let us bring our prayers before the One whose love knows no bounds.

A brief silence.

Gracious host, you broke bread with your disciples, making a covenant of peace. Turn us away from envy and self-centeredness, heal the divisions among us, and teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, the earth is yours and everything in it. You bring forth bread from the fields and fruit from the vine. Awaken us to care for all you have made and conserve the rich diversity of your good creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the nations, guide the world's leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Where they wield power unjustly, confront them. Where they are indifferent to suffering, awaken their conscience. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, especially Dan Krueger and family at the death of his mother Jan; relieve those in pain and draw near to all who suffer (*especially Fred Till, Carla Murray, Kelly Warfel, Rich Moen, Bill Miller and Erica Peterson*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed redeemer, we give you thanks for this community of faith and all who gather this night to share in your meal. Encourage us to build longer tables making room for all who hunger and thirst for your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses who now rest from their labors, especially Jan Krueger. At the last, gather us with them at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, confident that you will strengthen us by your Spirit to love one another as Christ has loved us. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a greeting of peace with one another.

OFFERING Remember, Remember Me – OSL Choir

OFFERTORY Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless 357:1, 3

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| <p>1 Lamb of God, pure and sinless,
once on the cross an offering,
patient, lowly, guiltless,
forsaken in your suffering:
from sin's grasp you have torn us,
from gloom to hope have borne us.</p> | <p>Grant us your mercy, O Jesus.</p> <p>3 Lamb of God, pure and sinless,
once on the cross an offering,
patient, lowly, guiltless,
forsaken in your suffering:</p> |
|--|--|

from sin's grasp you have torn us,
from gloom to hope have borne us.

Your peace be with us, O Jesus. Amen.

Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1485-1550; tr. composite
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MEAL

INVITATION

Jesus says: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty, and anyone who comes to me I will never turn away."

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

What Feast of Love 487

1 What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?

This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

2 What light of truth is offered here,
 what covenant from heaven?
 What hope of everlasting life,
 what wondrous word is given?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 the sun come down from heaven.
 Oh, see and hear and sing!
 The Word of God is given!

3 What wine of love is offered here,
 what crimson drink from heaven?
 What stream of everlasting life,
 what precious blood is given?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 the sweetest wine of heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing!
 The Son of God is given!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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One Bread, One Body 496

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
 one cup of blessing which we bless,
 and we, though many throughout the earth,
 we are one body in this one Lord.

1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,

woman or man, no more. *Refrain*

2 Many the gifts, many the works,
 one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*

3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
 gathered to one for all. *Refrain*

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace, now, and always.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

You may be seated.

SENDING

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

PSALM 22 *Chanted by Ted Bensen as Altar is stripped*

Details for stripping the altar: Pastors will hand altar items to 3-4 worship helpers who will walk items down the aisle and out to the friendship room, where altar guild volunteers will receive those items. Worship helpers will then reenter through side door to carry out more items.

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

6:30pm Service

Depart in silence