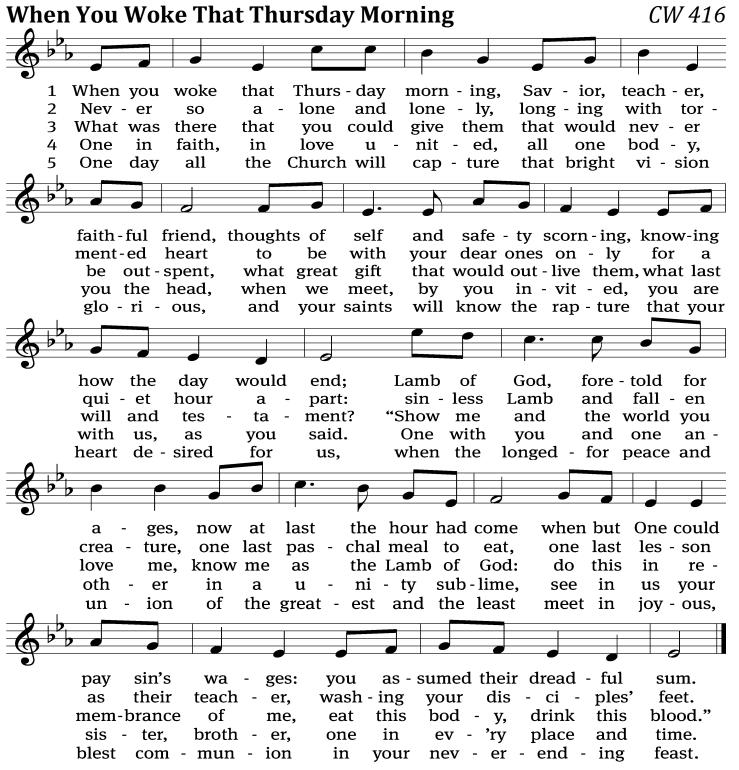
# TOGETHER AT THE LORD'S SUPPER

**Communion Preparation:** Christian Questions to prepare our hearts for communion are found on pp. 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayers for worship and Communion are found on the inside cover of the hymnals.

#### Welcome



# **Holy Thursday Confessional Rite**

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

#### Amen.

#### Confession

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior. Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. We should not doubt this absolution but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion, first instituted on this night, the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other. As we begin the solemn celebration of our Lord's passion, let us confess our sins to him, receive his absolution, and be reconciled to God and each other in Christian love.

# Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

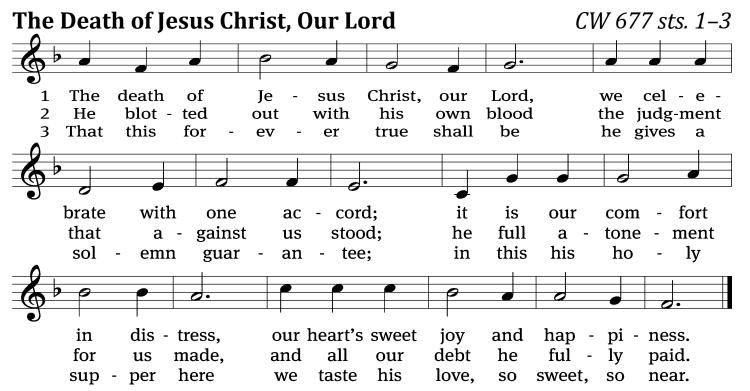
# **Absolution**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

## Reconciliation

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us, has reconciled us to God, and has promised us the power to forgive and love one another. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.



# THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

# Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.

Be seated

The LORD instituted the Passover for his people to celebrate together with their children for generations to come, remembering his deliverance in Egypt.

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. <sup>22</sup>Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. <sup>23</sup>When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

<sup>24</sup>"Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. <sup>25</sup>When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. <sup>26</sup>And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' <sup>27</sup>then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.'" Then the people bowed down and worshiped. <sup>28</sup>The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

<sup>29</sup>At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. <sup>30</sup>Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

The Word of the Lord.

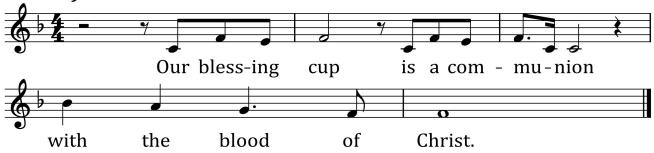
Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm 116**

Our Blessing Cup

Together in the courts of the LORD's house, we will lift up the cup of salvation and call on his name. Soloist: Our blessing cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.

ALL: Refrain



Soloist: How shall I make a return to the LORD for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

ALL: Refrain

*Soloist:* Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones. I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds.

# ALL: Refrain

*Soloist:* To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the LORD. My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people.

ALL: Refrain

# **Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

The Holy Supper brings bread and wine together with Jesus' body and blood, the sinner together with Jesus, and us together with each other.

<sup>16</sup>Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup>Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

**Gospel** *Mark* 14:12–26

Jesus instituted the Holy Supper, his body and blood of the covenant for our forgiveness, for his disciples to celebrate together.

<sup>12</sup>On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

<sup>13</sup>So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. <sup>14</sup>Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>15</sup>He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

<sup>16</sup>The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

<sup>17</sup>When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. <sup>18</sup>While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

<sup>19</sup>They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

<sup>20</sup>"It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. <sup>21</sup>The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

<sup>22</sup>While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

<sup>23</sup>Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

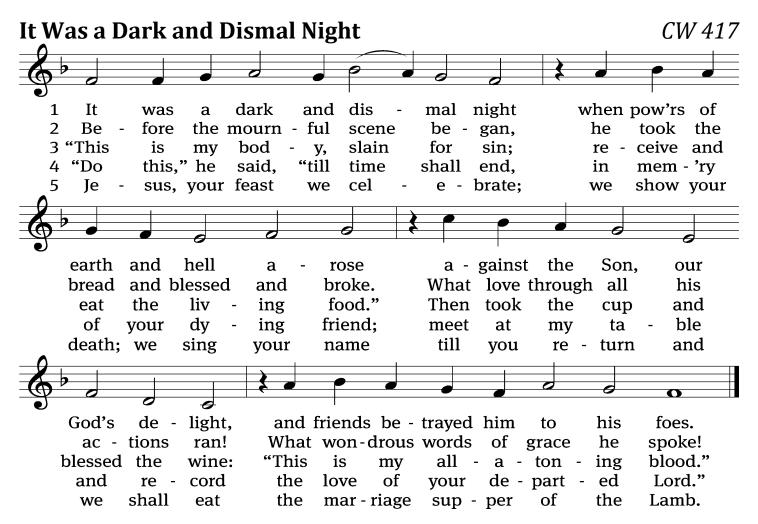
<sup>24</sup>"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. <sup>25</sup>"Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup>When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

# Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated



# **Sermon Text**

Psalm 116:1-7

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

<sup>2</sup>Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow.
Then I called on the name of the LORD: "LORD, save me!"
The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.
The LORD protects the unwary; when I was brought low, he saved me.

<sup>7</sup>Return to your rest, my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.

**Sermon** *Psalm 116* 

The Love of this Night is Forever His for us – Ours for him – Ours for each other

Stand

#### **Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# Prayer & 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.

# THE SACRAMENT

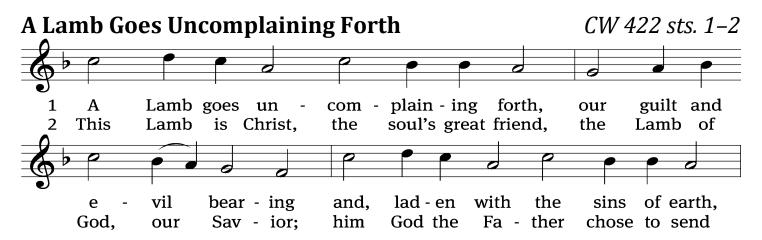
## **Words of Institution**

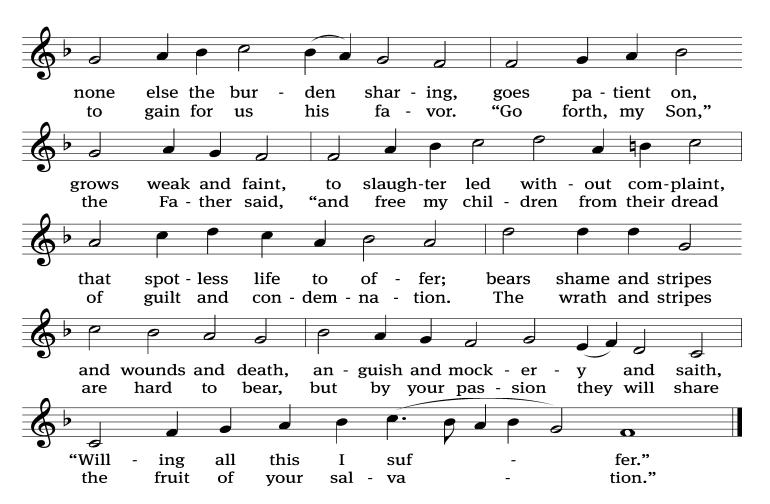
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

## Amen.



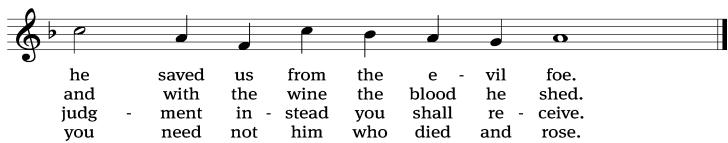


Be seated

## **Distribution**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: St. Paul's invites up to Communion instructed and confirmed members of this congregation and the Wisconsin Synod (WELS). If you are visiting us and are not a member of either, we would love to have you join us - just after we have established a shared faith in Jesus with you on the basis of God's Word. Please speak with one of our pastors after the service so we can make this happen.





7

- 5 Christ says, "Come, all you that labor, and receive my grace and favor; those who feel no pain or ill need no physician's help or skill."
- 6 Then hold fast with faith unshaken that this food is to be taken by the souls who are distressed, by hearts that long for peace and rest.
- Praise the Father, who from heaven unto us such food has given and, to mend what we have done, gave into death his only Son.
- 8 If your heart this truth professes and your mouth your sin confesses, surely you will be his guest and at his banquet ever blest.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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.

Be seated

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The altar is stripped of all its furnishings in token of Jesus' abandonment by his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. The congregation observes the stripping of the altar as the solo is sung.

**Solo** His Tears Were Mine

Come to the garden, in the darkness, where Jesus came and knelt to pray, to bear our grief, to carry all our sadness, to pay the debt he alone could pay. Come to the garden, in the darkness, where Jesus sorrowed for our sin and offered up his sinless soul to save us. Come, tarry here, watch one hour with him.

*Refrain:* He bled to bind our wounds and wash away our tears. He suffered all the anguish of mankind. He wept for every heartache we will ever know. His tears were yours; his tears were mine.

Come to the garden, in the darkness, where Jesus wrought his Father's will, to claim the souls his blood alone could purchase, to free us all from the chains of hell. There in the garden, in the darkness, where Jesus drank the bitter cup. The pain of our iniquity and weakness was swallowed up in his perfect love. *Refrain* 

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# SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PRESIDING MINISTER & PREACHER: Pastor Norv Kock

**SERVICE ACCOMPANIST:** Gillian Curia

**VIOLIN:** Tanya Schmidt

**ALTAR GUILD:** Kathy Nack, Lisa Specht, Lori Wehrmann.

**USHERS**: Dennis Eirich, Wally Gierach, Bill Maass, Aaron Maass, Dan Stange.

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** Andy Sprenger, Ed Strauss

Online giving options available

In thanks to our gracious Lord and his gift of forgiveness in Jesus, we bring to him a generous portion of all we have received from him. Offerings for the Lord's work may be placed in one of the designated boxes in the narthex today.

They may also be mailed in, dropped off in the office, or given online.

