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Liturgist: Vicar Durham
Sermon: Pastor Marcis

HOLY THURSDAY

New Covenant Promise
April 9, 2020



AS WE GATHER

Holy Thursday begins the great three days that commemorate how God accomplished our salvation in Jesus Christ. The first part of the service is confession and forgiveness, the culmination of the Lenten season of repentance. Holy Thursday then recalls two central events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. First is the Lord's Supper. The Gospel tells of the Holy Thursday night when, during the Passover meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is My body." He then took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My blood of the new covenant." The old covenant involved regular repeated animal sacrifice. This new covenant involves the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus' blood, which fulfilled the old covenant once for all. We now share this Meal regularly in remembrance of Jesus' all-availing sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. The second central event recalled tonight is the abandonment of Jesus by all who loved Him. This is remembered by the action of stripping the altar while Psalm 22 is sung or read. This reminder of how Jesus was forsaken also assures us that Jesus is with us at times when we feel forsaken.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN

"Let All Mortal Flesh keep Silence" *LSB 621*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

INTROIT

Psalm 116:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

Pastor: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.
People: **I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.**
Pastor: Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.
People: **The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.**
Pastor: Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"
People: **Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

CONFESSION

Pastor: People of God, we struggle against sin, death, and the power of the devil. We have intensified the struggle begun at Baptism to daily die with Christ and also to rise daily in Christ to live anew. In this struggle we have been reminded again that we are weak and Christ is strong. We need the forgiveness of our sins in order to live as the people God has called us to be.

A time of silence is observed.

Pastor: Assured of God's love for us through our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sin against God and our neighbors, so that we enter these three days, so central to our faith, reconciled to God and to one another.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

Pastor: The Word of God is living and active. Words of forgiveness spoken in the name of Jesus do what they say. Come, receive the forgiveness won for you by the blood of Jesus.

CORPORATE ABSOLUTION

Psalm 103:11–13

Pastor: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

KYRIE

LSB 152

Vicar: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Vicar: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Vicar: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Vicar: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Vicar: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Vicar: Let us pray. O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” *LSB 611*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 24:3–11

(Moses seals the covenant with the Lord.)

Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.” And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.” Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a

Vicar: Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood,

People: thus securing an eternal redemption.

Vicar: Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,

People: so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

Vicar: He sent redemption to His people;

People: He has commanded His covenant forever.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 9:11–22

(Jesus is the high priest of the new covenant who gives His own blood, rather than the blood of animals, to secure eternal redemption.)

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE

John 13:1b

Vicar: Having loved His own who were in the world,

People: He loved them to the end.

Vicar: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:17–30

(Jesus declares the bread to be His body and the cup to be His blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins.)

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of 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." Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so." Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this

fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Vicar: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table" *LSB* 618

SERMON

HYMN

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" *LSB* 436

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Vicar: let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

[The church is darkened. The pastor and vicar remove paraments, candles, banners, flowers, and any other adornments on the altar and in the chancel.]

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Psalm 22