

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
Altogether New: New Passover  
April 2, 2026

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**AS WE GATHER**

As the Lord Jesus had His disciples make preparations for the annual Passover meal, little did they know that this would be the very last official observance of the commanded remembrance of the exodus deliverance of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage in the days of Moses. For in the next three days (the Triduum), the fulfillment of that prophetic event would culminate in the deliverance of all people from the bondage of sin and death by means of the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus, the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah and deliverer. Tonight the “cup of blessing” (1 Corinthians 10:16) of the Passover meal is made to be the means of our participation in the very blood to be shed in atonement on the cross of Good Friday. Tonight this cup becomes the Sacrament of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation given to each individual believer from now on until the Lord returns on the Last Day. Tonight it is of utmost importance for all to hear and to believe in the very real presence of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus not just “spiritually” but “in, with, and under” the bread and wine we share, for the Lord Himself invites us to take and eat His body and to take and drink His blood, shed for us.

**✠ PREPARATION ✠**

(Rise)

**INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES**

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

**People: to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

**CONFESSIONAL ADDRESS**

Pastor: In this Great and Holy Week, tonight we enter the Holy Triduum, or Three Holy Days, of our Lord’s Passion. We begin where the Lord and His first disciples began, celebrating the fulfillment of the Old Testament Passover with the institution of the Sacrament of the body and blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. It is well that we complete our Lenten discipline this night by examining ourselves, confessing our sins, and receiving forgiveness in Holy Absolution. Therefore, let us implore God, our Father, for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

**People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God’s?

**People: Yes.**

Pastor: Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my 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.**

### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: 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.**

(Be seated)

### **✠ WORD ✠**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Exodus 12:1–14* (The Passover)

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,  
<sup>2</sup>“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.  
<sup>3</sup>Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.  
<sup>4</sup>And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb.  
<sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats,  
<sup>6</sup>and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.  
<sup>7</sup>“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the

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two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.  
<sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.  
<sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts.  
<sup>10</sup>And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.  
<sup>11</sup>In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.  
<sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.  
<sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.  
<sup>14</sup>“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

#### **EPISTLE** *1 Corinthians 11:23–32* (The Lord's Supper)

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,  
<sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”  
<sup>25</sup>In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”  
<sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.  
<sup>27</sup>Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and

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blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. <sup>30</sup> That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. <sup>31</sup> But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**6:00 CHOIR**      *"We Come as Guests Invited"*

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 22:7–20* (The Passover and institution of the Lord's Supper)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." <sup>9</sup> They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" <sup>10</sup> He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters <sup>11</sup> and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>12</sup> And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." <sup>13</sup> And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. <sup>14</sup> And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I

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tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." <sup>17</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." <sup>19</sup> And he 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." <sup>20</sup> And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

**SERMON HYMN #617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"**

O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,  
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.  
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish  
Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!  
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,  
That our sins and sorrows did carry,  
And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need:  
O Lord, have mercy!

Thy holy body into death was given,  
Life to win for us in heaven.  
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;  
May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy!  
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee  
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.  
All our debt Thou hast paid;  
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!

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May God bestow on us His grace and favor  
That we follow Christ our Savior  
And live together here in love and union  
Nor despise this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy!  
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;  
Grant that heav'nly minded He make us;  
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity:  
O Lord, have mercy!

**SERMON "Come...For All Things Are Ready" Luke 22:7-20**

(Rise)

**OFFERTORY**

LSB p. 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

**NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle.

(Rise)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Everlasting Father, your Son offered Himself through the eternal Spirit as a sacrifice without blemish. By this sacrifice, purify our conscience, that we may serve you always in newness and holiness of life. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** O Lord, as your people of old pledged to keep your Word, let us be faithful in doctrine and practice. Break and hinder the counsels of those who hate your Word and who, by corrupt teaching, would seek to destroy it. Give your Church faithful pastors and church workers, that your people may know the riches of your heavenly grace and, in peace and righteousness, serve you, the only God. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God and Father, be the source of strength and comfort in every home. Bless the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by your Son's mercy and grace. Preserve us from dangers to body and soul, guide us by your Word to wise paths, and keep us firm in the faith until life's end. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of healing, amid plagues, enemies and a world filled with conflict, give us wise leaders. Preserve us from harm. Guide those who make and administer our laws. Give to all judges knowledge to render justice with mercy. Bless and protect all military, emergency and medical workers here and abroad. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord God, almighty Father, we rally to your altar in the wilderness of this world. Hear our prayers for all those who are sick and afflicted, struggling and dying. Refresh them in their suffering, comfort them with your Word and nourish them in body and soul. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious Lord, your Son gathered His disciples on the night He was betrayed, and He gathers us around His altar now to receive His body and blood. Forgive our sins and sanctify us to proclaim with boldness His death until He comes. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Holy God, thank you for making us to be your holy people, cleansed and redeemed by the blood of your Son. Grant that we, your priests serving under Christ, our High Priest, may now offer living sacrifices in prayer and good works. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, on this most holy night, declared the exodus of all creation from its from bondage to sin and death, at the price of His blood, and commanded the remembrance of His promised presence as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

## SANCTUS

LSB p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

### PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

### AGNUS DEI

LSB p. 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.

(Be seated)

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### HYMN #629 "What Is This Bread"

What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:  
This bread we break, This life we take,  
Was crushed to pay for our release.  
O taste and see - the Lord is peace.

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What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;  
The cup of grace Brings His embrace  
Of life and love until I sing! O taste and see - the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live  
and He should die Under the rod?  
My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?  
O taste and see - the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,  
In mouth and soul He makes us whole –  
Christ, truly present in this meal.  
O taste and see - the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!  
I do believe That I receive His very body and His blood.  
O taste and see - the Lord is good.

### HYMN #638

### "Eat This Bread"

Choir/soloists sing the verses, **congregation joins in the Refrain**

**Refrain: Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
Come to Him and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
Trust in Him and you will not thirst.**

This is His body given for you;  
this is His blood that was shed for you. **Refrain**

As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you show His death until He comes again. **Refrain**

Eat His flesh and drink His blood,  
and Christ will raise you up on the last day. **Refrain**

Anyone who eats this bread will live forever. **Refrain**

If we believe and eat this bread,  
we will have eternal life. **Refrain**

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**HYMN #436      “Go to Dark Gethsemane”**

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;  
Your Redeemer’s conflict see,  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb;  
There, adoring at His feet,  
Mark that miracle of time,  
God’s own sacrifice complete.  
“It is finished!” hear Him cry;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb  
Where they laid His breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom.  
Who has taken Him away?  
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes.  
Savior, teach us so to rise.

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us through this salutary  
gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you  
would strengthen us through the same in faith

toward you and in fervent love toward one  
another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR – 6pm**

*The communion vessels are reverently removed from the  
altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in  
preparation for the solemn service of Good Friday.*

**PSALM 22 - 10am Spoken by Pastor - 6pm Choir**

Pastor: My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why  
are You so far from saving Me, from the words of  
My groaning? O My God, I cry by day, but You do  
not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. Yet You  
are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In You  
our fathers trusted; they trusted, and You delivered  
them. To You they cried and were rescued; in You  
they trusted and were not put to shame. But I am a  
worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and  
despised by the people. All who see Me mock Me;  
they make mouths at Me; they wag their heads;  
“He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver Him; let Him  
rescue Him, for He delights in Him!” Yet You are He  
who took Me from the womb; You made Me trust  
You at My mother’s breasts. On You was I cast from  
My birth, and from My mother’s womb You have  
been My God. Be not far from Me, for trouble is  
near, and there is none to help. Many bulls  
encompass Me; strong bulls of Bashan surround  
Me; they open wide their mouths at Me, like a  
ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like  
water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart

is like wax; it is melted within My breast; My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks to My jaws; You lay Me in the dust of death. For dogs encompass Me; a company of evildoers encircles Me; they have pierced My hands and feet—I can count all My bones— they stare and gloat over Me; they divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. But You, O LORD, do not be far off! O You My help, come quickly to My aid! Deliver My soul from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog! Save Me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild oxen! I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You: You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel! For He has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and He has not hidden His face from Him, but has heard, when He cried to Him. From You comes My praise in the great congregation; My vows I will perform before those who fear Him. The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For kingship belongs to the LORD, and He rules over the nations. All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive. Posterity shall serve Him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; they

shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn, that He has done it.

*All leave the church in silence.*

Preacher & Liturgist  
Lector  
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender  
Katie Scepanski  
Deaconess Carole King

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## **Holy Week Worship**

April 3 – Good Friday  
1:00 & 6:00pm

April 4 – Easter Vigil  
5:00pm

April 5 – Easter Morning  
6:30am Sunrise Service  
9:00 & 11:00am

An Easter breakfast will be served at  
7:45am in the Fellowship Hall