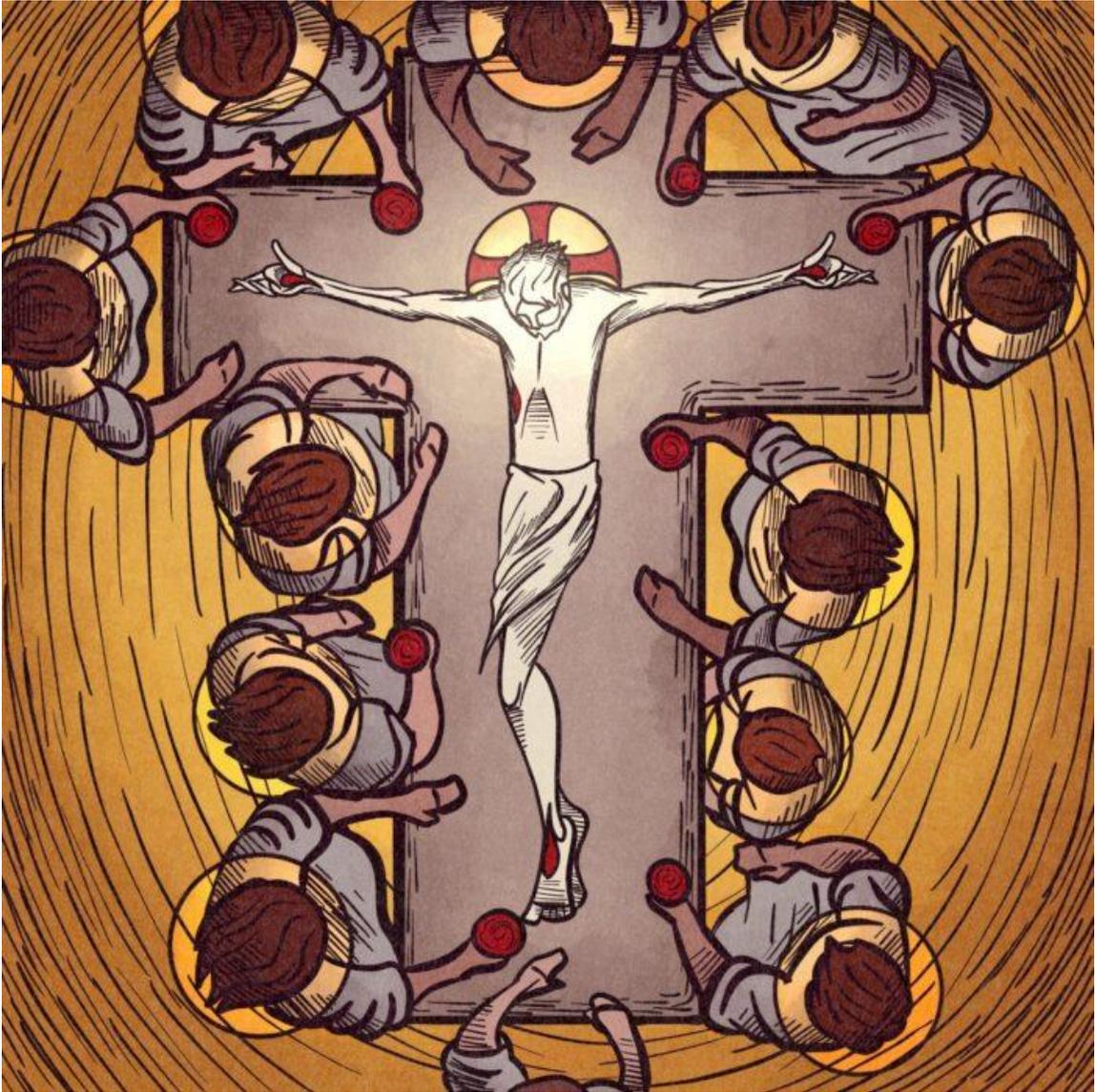


Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Glory of the Cross is Hidden in the
Savior's Feast

Holy Thursday

March 28, 2024



“Learning and sharing the gospel of Christ the Prince of Peace.”

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LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

Behold the Hidden Glory of the Cross!

God has shown us in the life and teaching of his Son the true way of blessedness. He has also shown us in His suffering and death that the path of love may lead to the cross, and the reward of faithfulness may be a crown of thorns. May God give us grace to learn these hard lessons! May we take up our cross and follow Christ in the strength of patience and the constancy of faith; and may we have such fellowship with Him in His sorrow that we may know His strength and peace and see, even in our darkest hour of trial and anguish, the beauty of eternal light!

February 21	It is Hidden in the Savior’s Solitude	Luke 18:31-34
February 28	It is Hidden in the Savior’s Rejection by His Own	Matthew 26:57-68
March 6	It is Hidden in the Savior’s Rejection by the World	John 18:33 – 19:1
March 13	It is Hidden in the Savior’s Stumbling	Mark 15:18-21
March 20	It is Hidden in Powerful Words	Luke 23:32-43
March 28	It is Hidden in the Savior’s Feast	Matthew 26:26-30
	(Holy Thursday)	
March 29	It is Hidden in the Savior’s Promises	John 19:31-37
	(Good Friday)	

LORD’S SUPPER

Scripture teaches us that in the Lord’s Supper:

- The body and blood of Christ are really present with the bread and the wine. (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:27)
- Jesus gives true forgiveness, not just a symbol, to each recipient. (Matthew 26:28)
- We are united as one body of believers because we all partake the one body and blood of Christ. “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? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf. (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

For these reasons we ask that, if you are not a part of a WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) or ELS (Evangelical Lutheran Synod) church that publicly confesses to believe these same scriptural truths, you speak with our pastor before you take the Sacrament. We do not wish to judge your faith, but want to make sure that we are in agreement before publicly declaring that we share a common faith.

We are careful about the way we celebrate the Lord’s Supper because we want to humbly accept this gift the way God intended.

Stand

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

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

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.

Silence for meditation and reflection

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.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

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

First Reading

Exodus 12:21–30

Just as the blood of the Passover lamb spared the Israelites from the plague of death, so too Jesus' blood, of a new covenant, spares us from death.

²¹Then 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. ²²Take 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.

²³When 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.

²⁴“Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. ²⁵When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. ²⁶And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ ²⁷then 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. ²⁸The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

²⁹At 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. ³⁰Pharaoh 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.

Choir

Lamb of God

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper is an expression of oneness in faith.

¹⁶Is 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? ¹⁷Because 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 Acclamation

1 Corinthians 11:26



Refrain



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

Refrain

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Gospel

Matthew 26:26–30

With simple and clear words, the Savior bestows a gift upon his followers: the sacrament of his body and blood.

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus 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.”

²⁷Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰When 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

675 At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing

CW 675 sts. 1–6

Sermon

The Glory of the Cross is Hidden in the Savior’s Feast

Matthew 26:26-30

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.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb of God, pictured in the ancient Passover feast, now giving your own body and pouring out your own blood in Holy Communion. Just as the Passover lambs assured the Israelites of God's promise to deliver them from death,
strengthen our belief that the bread is your real body and the wine is your real blood, given to us for our forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Prepare us to receive this sacrament remembering your death and repenting of our sins.
Unite us by our oneness of faith throughout this congregation and our synod, and love us to the end that we may love others as you have loved us.

We rejoice in our fellow believers who have been instructed in your Word and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, who are now ready to receive Holy Communion.
Equip them with every spiritual blessing for doing your will.

We pray for those absent from the sacrament because of their own neglect.
Call them in your mercy to return and renew their faith.

Keep in your care those unable to receive the sacrament often because they are homebound, hospitalized, imprisoned, serving in the military, or otherwise separated from the fellowship of believers. Encourage them so that they do not lose hope.
Be gracious to us all and nourish us with this feast, that we remain faithful unto death, and become partakers of the wedding feast of the Lamb. Amen.

Offering

Our offerings are freely given as a response to God's gracious outpouring of love upon us.

The Sacrament

Please be sure to see the note on page 2 of this bulletin regarding our communion practice according to God's Word.

Stand

Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

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.

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.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

663 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

CW 663 sts. 4-8

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.

The Dismissal

For many years, it has been the custom at Prince of Peace to sing the following Messianic Psalm at the close of the Holy Thursday service. Jesus faced his arrest, conviction and crucifixion with confident hope and joy! His focus was on doing the will of his Father and the glory that awaited him at the right hand of God! We encourage you to join in singing this song in your homes.

The choir will introduce the refrain and sing the verses. The congregation will sing the following refrains once the choir has introduced the song. The congregation will be ushered out as the song is sung. Verses will be repeated until the last person is out. The congregation may continue to sing from the narthex area after it has been dismissed.

Refrain:

PSALM 16: KEEP ME SAFE, O GOD

John Foley, S.J.

Keep me safe, O God: you are my
hope; you are my hope, O God.

English translation of the psalm response from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969,
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1. I say to God, “you are my only God, I have no good except in you.” **Refrain**
2. I find in God always my cup of joy; and God will keep my life secure. **Refrain**
3. I bless my God: God who has counseled me. At night my heart gives counsel too. **Refrain**
4. I keep my God always before my eyes; with God beside me I’m secure. **Refrain**
5. And so my heart always is glad in God; my body too shall dwell secure. **Refrain**
6. For you will not ever abandon me, or let your servant lost the path. **Refrain**
7. The path of life you have revealed to me, and in your presence is my joy. **Refrain**

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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