

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

People: **The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world.**

Pastor: As creation was dark when He suffered, so we extinguish our candles.

*(All candles are extinguished.)*

**PSALM 22** *(Pastor reads aloud)*

*(The congregation leaves the church in silence. The omission of the benediction today indicates that our worship is not complete until joined with the celebration of Easter.)*

**Silent Prayer:**

Jesus, I come to You, for You have broken every barrier down! Amen.

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday)

***Our Worship Schedule:***

*Saturday Afternoon Worship Service at 4:00pm*

*Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am*

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

March 28, 2024



**Bethlehem**

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gathering – Welcoming – Serving – Restoring*

## WHO WE ARE

*As forgiven children of God, Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
shows Christ's love through acts of service  
so that we can share the hope of the Gospel with others.*

### HOLY COMMUNION

In the Bible the Apostle Paul wrote, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (I Corinthians 11:28) In order to examine yourself before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am I sorry for my sins?  
(Proverbs 28:13; Romans 3:23; I John 1:8-9)
- Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death offers me forgiveness for all my sins?  
(Romans 5:8; Colossians 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; I John 1:7)
- Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in and with the bread and wine  
(not merely symbolically present)?  
(Matthew 26:26-28; I Cor. 10:16; I Cor. 11:24-25)
- Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God-pleasing life?  
(Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Romans 6:12)

If you are unable to answer "yes" to these questions or believe further instruction is needed, please talk to a pastor or an elder before communing as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritually harmful (I Corinthians 11:27-29). If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. If not, adults and children who have not yet taken part in communion instruction classes are invited to come forward for a blessing and are asked to keep their arms folded over their chest during the distribution.

*(Children's Activity bags are available in the Narthex.  
Please remember to return them to the rack after the service.)*

## † WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS †

**Theme of the Day:** All too often we don't have the right connections with the right person at the right time to accomplish all the right things. If we could just obtain access. The good news is that through the blood of Jesus we have unlimited access!

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### HYMN

LSB #445

*"When You Woke That Thursday Morning"*

### ! INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

*(During the sermon series on Exodus we are using psalms that celebrate Israel's  
Deliverance from Egypt. Today we use selected verses from Psalm 78.)*

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language.

**People: Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion.**

Pastor: The sea looked and fled,

**People: The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.**

Pastor: Tremble at the presence of the Lord,

**People: At the presence of the God of Jacob!**

Pastor: Who turns the rock into a pool of water,

**All: The flint into a spring of water.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Hear me, merciful and mighty Father, as I confess my bondage to sin and death.

**People: I know that nothing good lives in me.**

Pastor: That is, in my sinful nature.

**People: For I have the desire to do good.**

Pastor: But I cannot carry it out.  
People: **For what I do is not the good I want to do.**

Pastor: No, the evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing.  
People: **I find this law at work—**

Pastor: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.  
People: **For in my inner being I delight in God's law.**

Pastor: But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war and making me a prisoner of the law of sin and death.

All: **Who will rescue me from this body of death?**

*(You are invited to silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.)*

Pastor: Hear the good news! The same God who delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage also delivers you from your body of sin and death. Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed and His blood forgives you and sets you free! Tremble at the presence of the Lord.

People: **At the presence of the God of Jacob!**

Pastor: Who turns the rock into a pool of water,  
All: **The flint into a spring of water!**

#### 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.

All: **Amen.**

### † WE HEAR GOD'S WORD †

*(The readings are about access through blood.)*

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 24:1-11

#### EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 5:1-10

#### HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:26-30

#### HYMN

LSB #570 (Stanzas 1-3, 6)

*"Just As I Am, without One Plea"*

#### SERMON

*"Access!"*

### † WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD †

#### NICENE CREED

#### OFFERING/FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

Choir

*"In Remembrance"* (by Ragan Courtney and Buryl Red)

#### OFFERTORY

LSB pg. 159

*"What Shall I Render"*

#### PRAYERS

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ: Almighty Father, we thank and praise You that through Jesus,

People: **"We have gained access."**

Pastor: Protect your Church from the temptation to compromise this message of salvation, as well as from the temptation to remain silent, that Your pure Word, passionately proclaimed and guided by the Holy Spirit, may be an occasion for all people to know that through Jesus,

People: **"We have gained access by faith."**

Pastor: Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the church, and for all the people of God, that with our lips and our lives we declare that,

People: **"We have gained access by faith into this grace."**

Pastor: Lord, at Your Son's invitation, we come to His table. Help us to discern in the bread His true body and in the cup His true blood. Give us, by Your Holy Spirit, a right judgment of ourselves, that lamenting our sins we would receive pardon and absolution, all because,

People: **"We have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand."**

Pastor: These prayers, and those we silently place before You, we place before You, O God, because  
**All:** “We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus.”  
 Pastor: We pray these things through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**People:** Amen.

## † HOLY COMMUNION †

**! PREFACE** LSB pg. 160

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**

**SANCTUS** LSB pg. 161

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION** LSB pg. 162

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

**AGNUS DEI** LSB pg. 163

**! DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**  
*“O Lord We Praise Thee”* LSB #617  
*“Go to Dark Gethsemane”* LSB #436

**! POST COMMUNION CANTICLE** LSB pg. 165  
*“Nunc Dimittis”*

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

*(The PowerPoint screens are turned off)*

## † STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR †

**! Pastor:** After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgotha and execution. Jesus's offered body and His shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the bread and wine in this Holy Mystery.

**People:** **As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.**

*(Communion vessels are removed)*

Pastor: The cross is where Jesus took on our punishment to be able to give us the gift of heaven.

**People:** **When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”**

*(The processional cross is removed)*

Pastor: The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God.

**People:** **As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard.**

*(The missal stand and altar book are removed.)*

Pastor: Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God’s greatest offering to the world and to us in sending His Son, Jesus, in human form.

**People:** **As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.**

*(The offerings are removed.)*

Pastor: The altar is the place where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade; materials appropriate for feasting with our King.

**People:** **As our King’s body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.**

*(The altar cloths and paraments are removed.)*