Our Saviour Lutheran Church

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We begin in the Link.

Confession and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the things that keep us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation.

On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, reconciled with God and with one another.

The presiding minister leads the assembly in the confession.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

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. 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.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by God's authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

People may come forward for a word of forgiveness. The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn.

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins. *The person may respond:* **Amen.**

After the words of forgiveness, you are invited to take a candle, light it from the Christ Candle, and proceed to a place at the table. Light other candles around you as you find your place. During this time, we will sing.



Once all have found their place, the service continues:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD

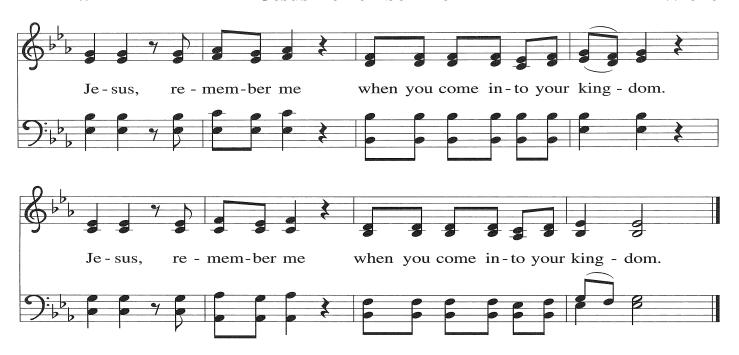
Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace show to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good new in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

And so tonight, as we gather, we remember that in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Bless this bread. Fill us with your presence. May our lives proclaim the mystery of your incarnation.

SHARING OF THE BREAD

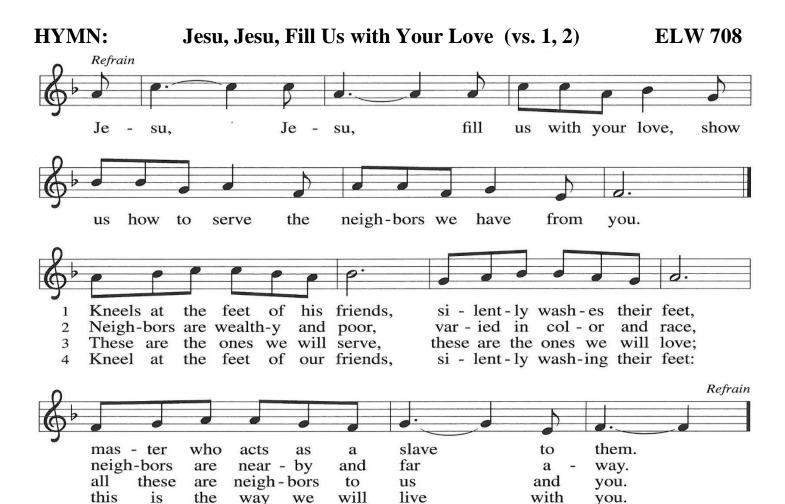
The bread is broken and shared at the table with each person giving bread to one another and saying, "This is the body of Christ, broken for you."



MEAL

After everyone has eaten bread, we have dinner together. Feel free to go and get your meal as soon as your table has shared bread together.

During the meal, we will hear the readings, have a discussion, and hear a sermon. Nearing the conclusion of the meal, the cup will be blessed and shared.



READING: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The gospel, according to John, the 13th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

Table Discussion Question

What are ways we can love our neighbor if we are in disagreement with them?

Reading Continues

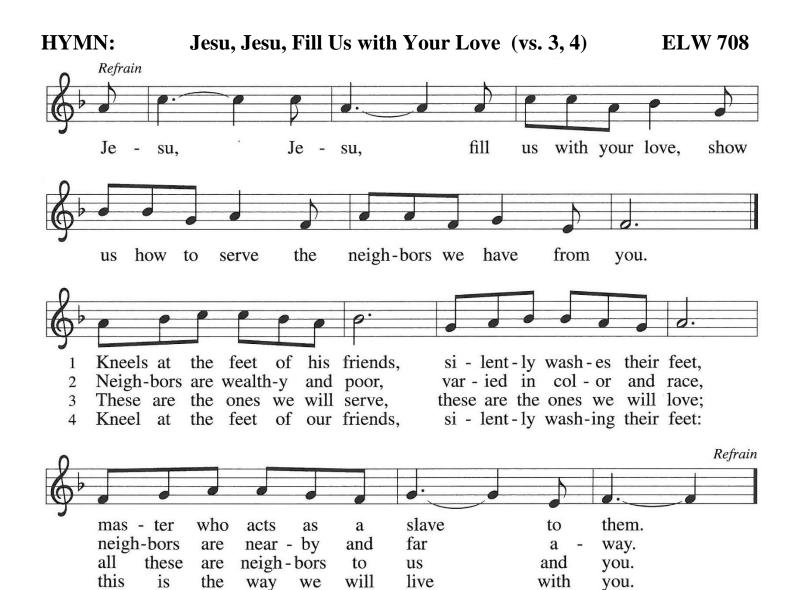
After he had washed their feet, put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for

me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Order, Disorder, and Re-order Part 1



PRAYERS

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You make a new covenant with your people. Gather your church around word and table in love and promise as these three holy days enfold us. Open us to behold the mystery of our salvation.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You give us our daily bread, fruit of the earth and work of human hands. Bless those who labor and tend to their crops and those who prepare our meals. Strengthen us to advocate for food justice and a fair distribution of resources.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You, our Savior and Teacher, stoop down to us in servant love. Inspire national and local leaders with a renewed sense of public service. Increase in them a humility to serve with equity and fairness. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You incline your ear to us in every need. Befriend all who are lonely. Comfort those who grieve. Soothe any who are anxious. Console all who are distressed. Graciously tend to the hurts of your children who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You inspire your people to praise in word, song, and art. Kindle in us appreciation for all who beautify our worship space throughout the changing seasons.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Precious in your sight is the death of your faithful ones. We remember and give thanks for those who have died. With them, we trust your promise to love your own until the end.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

BLESSING OF THE CUP

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty.

When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child;

When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.

Ruth faced starvation,

David fought Goliath,

and the psalmists cried out for healing,

and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city.

With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

Tonight we remember that on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus after supper, took the cup, as he had done with the bread. He gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. Amen.

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. Amen.

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. Amen.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

SHARING OF THE CUP

Wine will be poured at each table. The person giving the wine will pour some into your glass, saying, take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER THE PASSING OF THE CUP

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, in this promise of wonder made with the ordinary things of bread and wine, you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that we are transformed for your healing work in the world. As we walk the way of the cross in our lives, be with us. Remind us of your work of service, mercy, and disruption so that we do not despair or fall to apathy, but find ways of hope and resistance to the tomb and beyond.

Amen

Dessert is shared as we await the singing of the song and the lights are dimmed.



STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

A time of silence follows the song as candles are snuffed out symbolizing the transition from the meal to the preparation for Good Friday.

Psalm 88 is sung by a cantor as the altar table is stripped.

Please be still during this as a time of meditation.

THE STRIPPING OF OUR TABLES

After the altar table is stripped, as a sign of service to one another, we will clean our individual tables. We will do this in as much silence as we can. During this active meditation we contemplate the end of our meal and the movement into the garden where Jesus' betrayal will happen.

Dishes are cleaned. The leftovers are divided and given away. The garbage is taken out. Please stay and help until the whole place is cleaned up. Each person can add to the cleaning recognizing we all have different abilities.

After all things are tidied up, the service will end as we depart in silence.

Good Friday service continues the narrative at 7PM.