

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 6, 2023

Chronicles of the King—Prepared Food: Hezekiah

As We Gather

We begin the three-day journey that traces our Lord's exodus as He led His people from death to life through the depths of the earth. In II Chronicles, we read how the Israelite exodus from Egypt was to be celebrated. God's people were to commemorate it and God's Sinai covenant in the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. King Hezekiah did a lot of preparation to observe the Passover, but his efforts were overlooked and forgotten by the time of his successor. In Christ, the "son" of Hezekiah, though, His preparation made sure that everyone is welcome to come for the forgiveness He won for us and the new life He promises.

The Lord is eager to come into our presence in the Sacrament of His body and blood. So we hasten to His Passover. Hurry up! The salvation of God is at hand. Come to His Table; it is prepared. Come soon and come often. Whether you have been to communion every week for year after year or whether you have been away for many years like the Judeans in Hezekiah's day, let us rejoice tonight.

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

LSB 803

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.
- D 3 Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt. Text: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Hebrews 9:11–12

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have come together intending to receive our Lord Jesus Christ's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. The Sacrament provides comfort for troubled hearts and freedom from the wrath we deserve,

When we look at our lives and conduct, though, we find sin and rebellion. Worse, we cannot free ourselves by our own strength. "But when Christ appeared as a high priest . . . He entered once for all into the holy places . . . by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption."

Let us therefore confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

C **O almighty God, merciful Father, I confess that I am a poor, miserable sinner. I have sinned in my thinking, speaking, and acting. I deserve Your punishment here in time and hereafter in eternity. In Your boundless mercy, hear my sincere repentance and for the sake of Your Son's giving Himself over to suffering and death on my behalf, be merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C **Yes.**

P 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in T peace.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 116:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

P Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful

C **I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

P Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

C **The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;**

P I suffered distress and anguish.

**All Then I called on the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”
Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

2 Chronicles 30:1–5, 10–13, 22b–27

¹Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem to keep the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel. ²For the king and his princes and all the assembly in Jerusalem had taken counsel to keep the Passover in the second month— ³for they could not keep it at that time because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient number, nor had the people assembled in Jerusalem— ⁴and the plan seemed right to the king and all the assembly. ⁵So they decreed to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that the people should come and keep the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel, at Jerusalem, for they had not kept it as often as prescribed. ¹⁰So the couriers went from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun, but they laughed them to scorn and mocked them. ¹¹However, some men of Asher, of Manasseh, and of Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. ¹²The hand of God was also on Judah to give them one heart to do what the king and the princes commanded by the word of the LORD. ¹³And many people

came together in Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month, a very great assembly. ²²And Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who showed good skill in the service of the LORD. So they ate the food of the festival for seven days, sacrificing peace offerings and giving thanks to the LORD, the God of their fathers. ²³Then the whole assembly agreed together to keep the feast for another seven days. So they kept it for another seven days with gladness. ²⁴For Hezekiah king of Judah gave the assembly 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep for offerings, and the princes gave the assembly 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep. And the priests consecrated themselves in great numbers. ²⁵The whole assembly of Judah, and the priests and the Levites, and the whole assembly that came out of Israel, and the sojourners who came out of the land of Israel, and the sojourners who lived in Judah, rejoiced. ²⁶So there was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. ²⁷Then the priests and the Levites arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard, and their prayer came to his holy habitation in heaven.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 116:12–19

P What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?

C **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.**

P Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.

C **O LORD, I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.**

P I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

C **I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!**

Epistle

Hebrews 9:11–22

¹¹When 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) ¹²he 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.

¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the

ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how 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. ¹⁵Therefore 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. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For 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, ²⁰saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." ²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

John 13:1b

P Having loved His own who were in the world,

C **He loved them to the end.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:17–30

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁷Now 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?" ¹⁸He 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.'" ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. ²⁰When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²²And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" ²³He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. ²⁴The 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."

²⁵Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so." ²⁶Now 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." ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I 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." ³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

O Lord, We Praise Thee

LSB 617

1 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!

2 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!

3 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!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2-3): Martin Luther, 1483-1546
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Sermon

Creed

Nicene Creed

C 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.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various needs.

For ourselves, that we treasure the promises of God made to His people in the past and to us today, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church around the world, that it be free to gather around Word and Sacrament and rejoice in every opportunity to spread the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our brothers and sisters in Christ, that they seek the Lord's help in resisting temptation and in their lives of faith and love, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

- P For people in positions of power locally, nationally, and among the nations of the world, that God give them wisdom and compassion, ordering society within their borders and seeking peace across them, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For all who call out to God, all in danger from natural disasters and manmade oppression, those in crises of health and chronic disabilities, and many who languish in poverty and isolation, that God would hear their spoken prayers and unspoken sighs, granting them relief, restoration, and enjoyment of life, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For all who rush toward danger, who raise crops and tend herds, who deliver the world's goods, who provide communication and social services, who protect and defend their neighbors and countries, that God would guide and protect them so that many may be served by their dedication and resolve, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For all who come to the Lord's Table this day seeking peace in their hearts, that God's mercy and love would enable them to rejoice in the forgiveness, life, and salvation that our gracious Savior offers here, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of the bitter sufferings, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.
- C **Amen.**

Preface

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P 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 accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who

overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You.

C **Amen!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C **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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

LSB 622

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared This feast for our salvation;
It is Your body and Your blood, And at Your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed, We come to You for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.
- 2 Although You did to heav'n ascend, Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Your presence they behold Your glory, all excelling,
And though Your people shall not see our glory and Your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning,
- 3 Yet, Savior, You are not confined To any habitation;
But You are present even now Here with Your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.
- 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your precious Word believing
That Your true body and Your blood Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true; All things are possible with You,
For You are Lord Almighty.
- 5 Though reason cannot understand, Yet faith this truth embraces:
Your body, Lord, is even now At once in many places.
I leave to You how this can be; Your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unfailing.
- 6 Lord, I believe what You have said; Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust, And let my faith not fail me.

Your supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.

7 Grant that we worthily receive Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins, May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Your grace And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.

8 For Your consoling supper, Lord, Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603–68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841–1931, alt. Text: Public domain

I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

LSB 618

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole: Refrain

ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. Refrain

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: Refrain

4 Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden My heart, for I am now Thy guest. Refrain

5 What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. Refrain

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Stripping of the Altar

Psalm 22

P The altar is a symbol of our Lord, vested in fine linens, holding the vessels for bread and wine and the stand for Readings from Scripture and for the liturgy, and having candles to proclaim Him as the light of the world. As those adornments are removed, symbolic of the abuse our Lord experienced today and tomorrow, we shall read Psalm 22, for the evangelists Matthew and Mark tell us that our Lord prayed, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me," as He took our place on the cross.

The congregation departs in silence.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.

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