

✠ MAUNDY THURSDAY ✠

✠ HOLY THURSDAY ✠

April 6, A. D. 2023

Divine Service

PRELUDE

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

BWV 656
J. S. Bach

WORD OF WELCOME

HYMN OF INVOCATION

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

Hymn 434, sts. 1–2

INVOCATION ✠ EXHORTATION

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

CONFESSIOAL ADDRESS

P Since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord on this Maundy Thursday, we begin this by examining ourselves, confessing our sins and rejoicing in the forgiveness won for us on Good Friday and celebrated in the resurrection of our Lord on Easter. It is proper for us to examine ourselves for this sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled by their sins and who humbly confess their sins and fear God’s wrath, as well as hunger and thirst for the righteousness that fills the human spirit that only God can provide. We begin by hearing the Word of our Lord by reciting Psalm 46.

PSALM

Psalm 46; antiphon, v. 11

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has brought desolations on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

CONFESSION OF SINS ✕ ABSOLUTION

P And now I ask you, in the presence of God, who searches the heart:

Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

C **I do so confess.**

P Truly you should confess, for Holy Scripture declares: “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8).

P Do you sincerely repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

C **I do so repent.**

P Truly you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others.

P Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus’ sake, will forgive you all your sins?

C **I do so believe.**

P Truly you should so believe, for Holy Scripture declares: “God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

P Do you promise that by the power and aid of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

C **I do so promise.**

P Truly you should so promise, for Christ our Lord says: “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

P Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

C **I do so believe.**

P Truly you should so believe, for Christ our Lord, on the evening of the first Easter, told His disciples: “If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven” (John 20:23a).

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

C **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

HYMN FOR PEACE

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

Hymn 434, st. 3

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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; as You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 24:3–11

After the Reading:

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

Joachim Decker,
Johannes Eccard,
and J. S. Bach

✠ (4:00) Kantor

✠ (7:00) Choir

Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior, Turned away God's wrath forever;
By His bitter grief and woe He saved us from the evil Foe.

As His pledge of love undying He, this precious food supplying,
Gives His body with the bread And with the wine the blood He shed.

Praise the Father, who from heaven Unto us such food hath given,
And, to mend what we have done, Gave into death His only Son.

If thy heart this truth professes And thy mouth thy sin confesses,
His dear guest thou here shalt be, And Christ Himself shall banquet thee.

(John Hus)

EPISTLE

Hebrews 9:11–22

After the Reading:

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:17–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 26th chapter.

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

After the Reading:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CREED

Apostles' Creed

back inside cover of hymnal

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

Hymn 606

SERMON

Demand of the Lord

OFFERING

O Lord, We Praise Thee

Jan Bender

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

CHRISTIAN QUESTIONS WITH THEIR ANSWERS for those who intend to go to the Sacrament.

1. *Do you believe that you are a sinner?*

Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.

2. *How do you know this?*

From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.

3. *Are you sorry for your sins?*

Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

4. *What have you deserved from God because of your sins?*

His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. (Romans 6:21, 23)

5. *Do you hope to be saved?*

Yes, that is my hope.

6. *In whom then do you trust?*

In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.

7. *Who is Christ?*

The Son of God, true God and man.

8. *How many Gods are there?*

Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

9. *What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?*

He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

10. *Did the Father also die for you?*

He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.

11. *How do you know this?*

From the Holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

12. *What are the Words of Institution?*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

13. *Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?*

Yes, I believe it.

14. *What convinces you to believe this?*

The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.

15. *What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?*

We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

16. *Why should we remember and proclaim His death?*

First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

17. *What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?*

His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.

18. *Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?*

That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

19. *What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?*

First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

20. *But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?*

To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and

