

Holy Week

03/28/2024

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

P In this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil – all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of God's love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Within the community of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant.

It is, however, in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. The Eucharist is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

P Let us make our confession to God.

C Almighty God, merciful Father: I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen

P Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his 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.

C Amen

GATHERING HYMN: [ELW#609 “Chief of Sinners, Though I Be”](#)

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

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit this sacrament may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Please be seated.

PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19

L ¹I love the Lord, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

C ²for the Lord has given ear to me whenever I called.

L ¹²How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things God has done for me?

C ¹³**I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

L ¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people.

C ¹⁵**Precious in your sight, O Lord, is the death of your servants.**

L ¹⁶O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

C ¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.**

L ¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people,

C ¹⁹**in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#666 "How Wondrous Love Is This"](#)

SERMON: [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

Please stand, as you are able.

L Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

L Let us pray for bishops, for pastors, and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

L Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

L Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

L Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

L Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

L Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

L Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

L Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

L Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

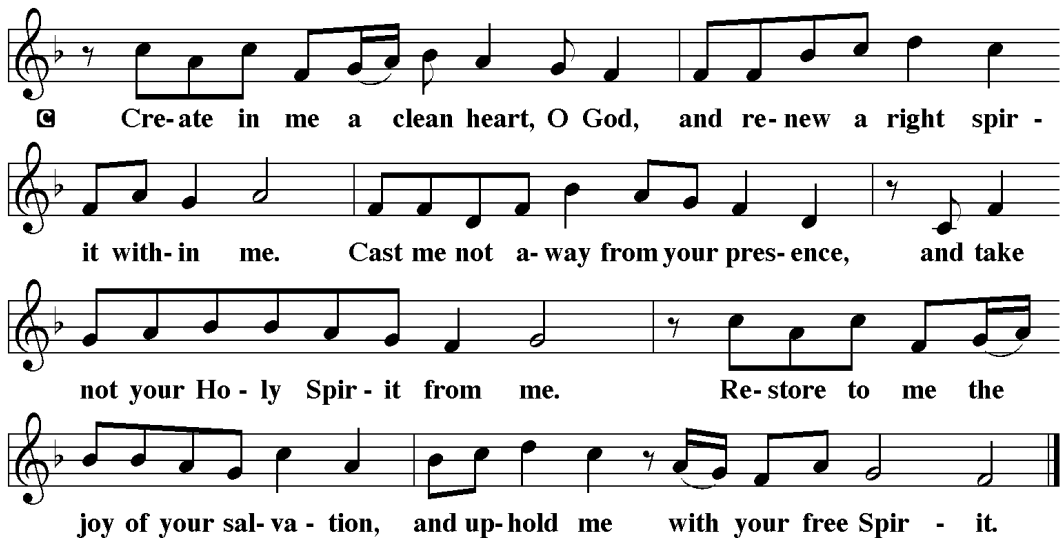
C Amen

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offering*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

P Let us pray. Merciful God,
C as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P 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 shown 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 news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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 for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

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

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

P The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal. Come, behold and receive our God.

C Thanks be to God.

After all have communed, the following is sung:



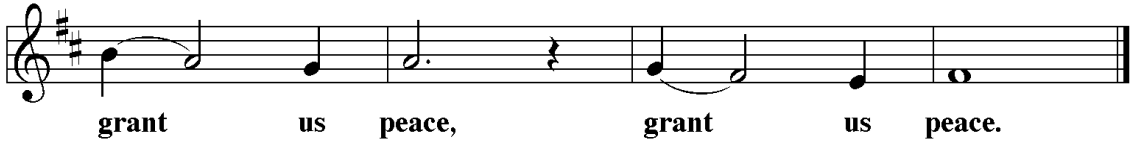
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



Please stand, as you are able.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Please be seated.

MARK 15:16-39

L The passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Mark: ¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The cross is draped in black, symbolizing the apparent victory of the devil and all the forces of evil that defy God. All leave the sanctuary in silence.

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills

Ellicott City, MD 21043

<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/2627291



Announcements

- Easter Sunrise Service, Broadway Pier, 3/31/2024 6:45 am
- Easter Service, 3/31/2024, 9:30 am



Upcoming Narrative Lectionary Texts

March 31	Easter	Mark 16:1-8
April 7	2 Easter	Acts 1:1-14
April 14	3 Easter	Acts 3:1-10
April 21	4 Easter	Acts 17:1-9 1 Thess. 1:1-10
April 28	5 Easter	Acts 18:1-4 1 Cor 1:10-18
May 5	6 Easter	1 Cor 13:1-13
May 12	7 Easter	1 Cor 15:1-26, 51-57
May 19	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-4; 1 Cor 12:1-13

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