



Holy Communion  
**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**  
160 Hill Farm Road  
Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

**Maundy Thursday April 1, 2021**  
7:30 pm Drive In  
[www.oursaviours.net](http://www.oursaviours.net)  
203-255-0545

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## **Introduction**

*Holy Thursday is the beginning of the Great Three Days—the ancient observance of the mystery of our salvation, which plunges the faithful into the death of Jesus and it brings them with him to resurrection life. The Three Days begin with one liturgy extending from Thursday evening through the Easter Vigil.*

*Tonight's liturgy focuses on two significant actions. First, the confession of sins and announcement of forgiveness brings to a conclusion the Lenten discipline of repentance that began on Ash Wednesday. On that day an ashen cross was marked on our foreheads, symbolizing our dark and sinful nature. Tonight, we make the mark of the cross invisibly, symbolizing our cleansing from sin because of Jesus' sacrificial love. And we celebrate our meal of deliverance, taking our place at the supper Jesus shared with his disciples on this night.*

## **WELCOME**

## **PRELUDE**

**First Reader: Terry Enquist, OSLC**

**Mark 14:12-16**

12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" 13 So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, 14 and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 15 He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." 16 So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to  
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my  
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath  
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal  
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.  
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.  
 Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

## **Second Reader: Sandra Brown, Salem**

**Mark 14:17-21**

17 When it was evening, he came with the twelve. 18 And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." 19 They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" 20 He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. 21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor Mark: Friends in Christ Jesus, during the Season of Lent we have heard our Lord's call for us to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that would 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 us the peace of reconciliation. On this holy night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbors, and enter the celebration of the Great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

*Following the invitation, all keep silence for reflection and self-examination.*

*Then Pastor Mark leads the assembly in the confession.*

Most merciful God,

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

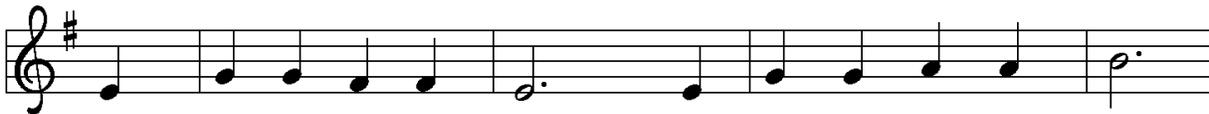
**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**

**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.**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Pastor Mark:

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Our Savior. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + the Christ, Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthens you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ, may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

*You may now make the sign of the cross on your forehead to symbolize your freedom from sin.*

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Mark: Let us pray. 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.**

## THE PEACE IS SHARED

Pastor Mark: The peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

**Assembly: And also with you.**

*Worshippers are invited to greet each other with a wave or other sign of peace at a safe social distance.*

## THE MEAL

### OFFERING



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### HOW TO CAREFULLY OPEN PREFILLED COMMUNION CUPS

*At this time, please prepare your communion cup.*

- *Remove the outer wrapper,*
- *lift off the wafer,*
- *carefully unseal the cup,*
- ***but wait to consume*** until directed during the words of institution.

#### To Open Wafer

Lift the clear film top to open and receive your wafer. (Hint: Bending the tab up and down to snap will release the air-tight seal on the film and make the edge very easy to find and open.)

#### To Open Cup

Open the cup by carefully peeling back the pre-cut tab on the foil seal to drink the juice. ***But wait to consume*** until directed during the words of institution.



### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Marjo: Let us pray. God, our provider,

**Assembly: you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Marjo: The Lord be with you.

**Assembly: And also with you.**

Pastor Marjo: Lift up your hearts.

**Assembly: We will lift them to the Lord.**

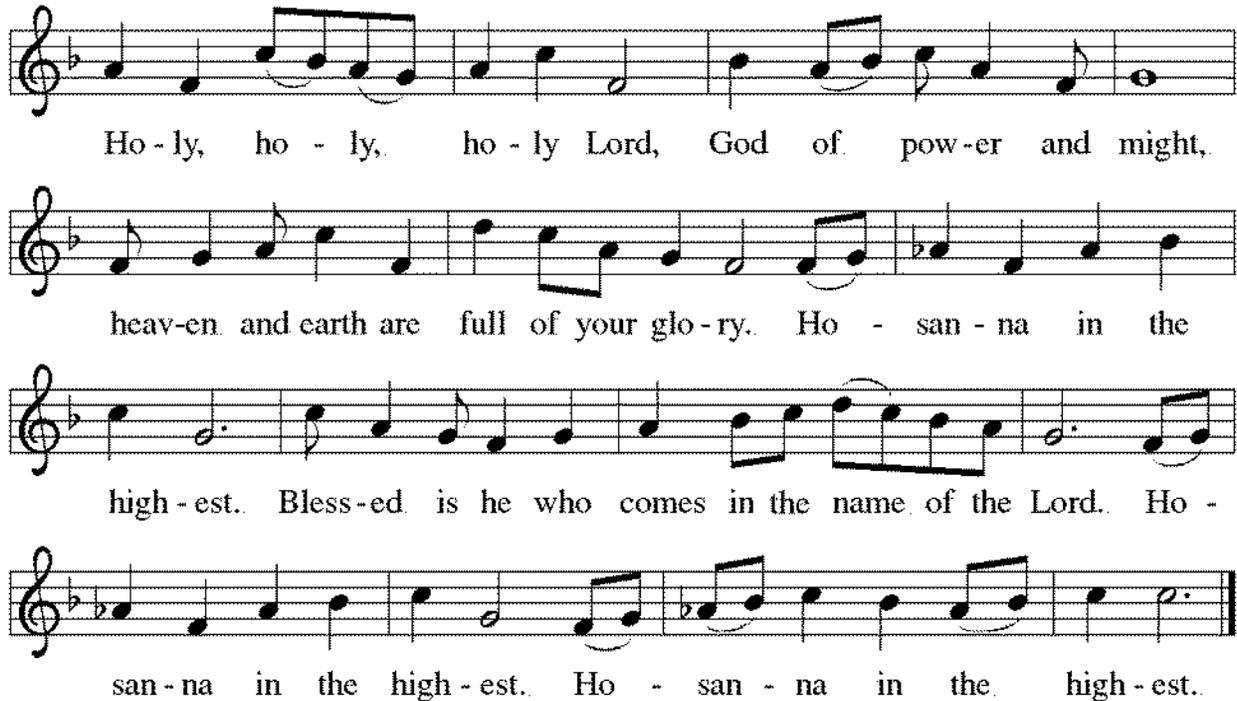
Pastor Marjo: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Assembly: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Mark 14:22-25

22 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." 23 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. 24 He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 25 Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Pastor Marjo: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given for you; Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Now may this holy meal strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**Assembly: Amen**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor Marjo: Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Assembly: Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“There is a Green Hill Far Away”*

*By Michael Bedford*

**Third Reader: Will Thoretz, OSLC**

**Mark 14:26-31**

26 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27 And Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters; for it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep will be scattered.’

28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” 29 Peter said to him, “Even though all become deserters, I will not.” 30 Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” 31 But he said vehemently, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same.

*Silence for Reflection and Contemplation on this Holy Night*

**Fourth Reader: Jeanette Harris, Genesis Gospel Café, Interim at Cross of Christ, Waterbury**

**Mark 14:32-42**

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” 33 He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. 34 And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” 35 And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” 37 He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? 38 Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 39 And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. 40 And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. 41 He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

**SERMON**

**“Keep Awake and Pray.”**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastor Marjo: At this service of Holy Communion, let us join together in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*Pause for a time of contemplative silence*

Blessed are you, O God, for the Church. Bring all people into your fellowship of love. Make us worthy to share your food. Pass us over from death into life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you for this good earth. Protect the waters from pollution. Bless the growing crops with your rain and sun. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you for our nation. Inspire us and all nations to live in peace and concord. Free those who are enslaved by violence and war. We pray especially for the people of Boulder, Colorado, and all who mourn because of needless violence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you for this table. We pray for the hungry, those in need, those seeking healing of body, mind and spirit especially these we name in our hearts and with our voices now... (pause)  
Answer their cries for help and healing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you for all communities of faith. Form us into servants for our neighborhoods, our nation and the world. Give us your spirit of service. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you for all believers who have gone before us. Bring us all at the end into your everlasting glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor Marjo: Receive, O loving God, our prayers, and grant that we and all people may know the love and mercy of your Son, Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Pastor Mark:

**Mark 14:43-50**

43 Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. 44 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." 45 So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46 Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. 47 But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 48 Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? 49 Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." 50 All of them deserted him and fled.

## **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

*Dear friends, you may stay after this ritual to continue your individual prayers.  
Remember to leave quietly in your vehicles after the service concludes.*

*Silence for reflection*

**SOLO**

**"PSALM 22"**

*Setting by Therese Gemme*

*The service concludes with the stripping of the altar. Following the prayer after communion, the sacramental elements and vessels, linens, paraments, banners, and books are removed from the worship space. Psalm 22 is sung by the soloist. Lights may be dimmed as the worship space is stripped.*

*All depart in silence.*

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## **Serving at Our Saviour's tonight**

Ministers:	The Baptized Members
Pastors:	Pastor Mark Christoffersen Pastor Marjo Anderson
Music Director:	Dr. Alice Caldwell
Musicians:	Youth Choir; Sharon Horvath, soloist
Readers:	Volunteers from Salem: Sandra Brown Genesis Café: Jeanette Harris, Licensed Lay Minister Our Saviour's: Terry Entwistle, Will Thoretz

