



***St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School***

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Opening Hymn: Jesus, I Will Ponder Now CW 420

1 Jesus, I will ponder now On your holy passion;

With your Spirit me endow For such meditation.

Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish

Of your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.

2 Make me see your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,

Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And your crucifixion;

Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound you,

How for them you died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned you.

3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see your passion,

But its cause to me make known And its termination.

Ah! I also and my sin Wrought your deep affliction;

This indeed the cause has been Of your crucifixion.

### Invocation

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

C: Amen.

### Confession of Sins

P: Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God,  
our Father,

C: asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us  
forgiveness.

P: No one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law.

C: Rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

P: You shall have no other gods.

C: Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for  
his strength and whose heart turns away from God.

P: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

C: With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, with it we curse  
men, who have been made in God's likeness. My brothers, this  
should not be.

P: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

C: Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do  
what it says.

P: Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

**C: He who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.**

P: You shall not murder.

**C: Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.**

P: You shall not commit adultery.

**C: Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure. For God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.**

P: You shall not steal.

**C: What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**

P: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

**C: I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.**

P: You shall not covet.

**C: For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.**

P: I said: "I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord" —

**C: and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

P: Christ has died. Christ has risen from the dead. Christ will come again in glory. In his great mercy, "God made you alive with Christ by forgiving us all our trespasses. God erased the record of our debt brought against us by his legal demands. This record stood against us, but he took it away by nailing it to the cross." Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

P: Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins, obtain your full and gracious pardon, and prove our repentance by our deeds; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn: (by Senior Choir) "The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me"**

**1 The love of Christ who died for me Is more than mind can know;**

**His mercy measureless and free To meet the debt I owe.**

**He came my sinful cause to plead, He laid his glories by,**

**For me a homeless life to lead, A shameful death to die.**

**2 My sins I only see in part, My self-regarding ways;**

**The secret places of my heart Lie bare before his gaze.**

**For me the price of sin he paid; My sins beyond recall**

**Are all alike on Jesus laid, He died to bear them all.**

### **Repayment of a Loan**

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, today we give thanks to our gracious God for enabling our congregation to fully repay the loan secured for the construction of the building that houses our Lutheran elementary school.

*(A copy of the loan document is burned.)*

P: Let us pray.

Eternal God, source of everything good, you give us strength to serve in your kingdom. We thank you for blessing us so richly as we worked together to construct this building for our congregation's ministry. We recall with gratitude the times of planning and building and the joy we experienced at its completion. Today we especially remember all the offerings brought by your people as expressions of their faith, love, and hope in Christ Jesus and all the sacrifices made by so many that have made this day a reality.

We pray that you would renew our zeal for the work that still lies before us. Enable us to labor diligently for you and your kingdom before the night comes when no one can work. Continue to shine the light of your love on us so that we may reflect it as we offer ourselves to your service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn: (by Senior Choir) "The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me"**

**3 O living Lord of life, for whom the heavens held their breath,  
To see, triumphant from the tomb, A love that conquers death,  
Possess my heart that it may be Your kingdom with-out end;  
O Christ who died for love of me And lives to be my friend.**

**Part 1 of the Passion History: Jesus' Readiness to Suffer and Die**

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. Jesus said to his disciples, "You know that after two days it will be the Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas. They plotted together how to arrest Jesus in some deceitful way and kill him. But they said, "Not during the feast, or else there might be a riot among the people."

Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve. He went and spoke with the chief priests and officers of the temple guard about how he could betray Jesus to them. He said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup>From that time on Judas was looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus when the crowd was not present.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare so that you may eat the Passover?" Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

They went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

Then a dispute arose among the disciples about which of them was considered to be greatest. But he told them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' But not so with you. Instead, let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. For who is greater, one who reclines at the table or one who serves? Isn't it the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have remained with me in my trials. And I grant to you a kingdom, even as my Father granted to me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

By the time the supper took place, the devil had already put the idea into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going back to God. So he got up from supper and laid aside his outer garment. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered him, "You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand."

Peter told him, "You will never – ever – wash my feet!"

Jesus answered, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me." "Lord, not just my feet," Simon Peter replied, "but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus told him, "A person who has had a bath does not need to wash anything except his feet to be completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you." For he knew who was betraying him. This is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

When Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer garment, he reclined at the table again. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" He asked them. "You call me, 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' You are right because I am. Now if I, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. Yes, I have given you an example, so that you also would do just as I have done for you. Amen, Amen, I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

He took a cup, gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes. I am not talking about all of you. I know those I have chosen. But this is so that the Scripture may be fulfilled: 'One who eats bread with me has raised his heel against me.' I am telling you this right now before it happens, so that when it does happen, you may believe that I am he. Amen, Amen, I tell you: Whoever receives anyone I send, receives me. And whoever receives me, receives the one who sent me."

**Hymn: Jesus, I Will Ponder Now** CW 420

**4 If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,  
Let your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won By your holy passion.  
If for me he slays his Son, God must have compassion!**

**5 Grant that I your passion view With repentant grieving.  
Let me not bring shame to you By unholy living.  
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure  
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?**

**6 Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from you, Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav'n above Sing your praise forever.**

## **Sermon Text: Colossians 2:13-14**

God made you alive with Christ by forgiving us all our trespasses.

<sup>14</sup>God erased the record of our debt brought against us by his legal demands. This record stood against us, but he took it away by nailing it to the cross.

### *Praise God For Another Debt That's Paid In Full*

*I. It's the debt you owed*

*II. It's the debt Christ paid*

## **Confession of Faith**

**All: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.**

## **Offering**

### **Prayer**

P: Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words, and actions that nature produces.

Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment.

Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.**

P: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into the world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in unfathomable love he suffered and died for us.



**C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.**

P: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we walk the way to the cross. As we contemplate the history of our Savior's passion, build us up in our most holy faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all you lived and died to save may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

**C: We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves, in body and spirit to you Lord God. Hear us for Jesus' sake, and hear us as we also pray:**

**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.**

### The Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**      *CW 167*

**♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Words of Institution**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God** *CW 169*

♫ **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

**Distribution**

**Distribution Hymn: The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord** *CW 677*

**1 The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
we celebrate with one accord;  
it is our comfort in distress,  
our heart's sweet joy and happiness.**

**2 He blotted out with his own blood  
the judgment that against us stood;  
he full atonement for us made,  
and all our debt he fully paid.**

**3 That this forever true shall be  
he gives a solemn guarantee;  
in this his holy supper here  
we taste his love, so sweet, so near.**

4 His Word proclaims and we believe  
that in this supper we receive  
his very body, as he said,  
his very blood for sinners shed.

5 A precious food is this indeed,  
it never fails us in our need,  
a heav'nly manna for our soul  
until we safely reach our goal.

6 How blest is each believing guest  
who in these promises finds rest,  
for Jesus will in love abide  
with those who do in him confide!

7 They who his Word do not believe  
this food unworthily receive,  
salvation here will never find—  
may we this warning keep in mind!

8 Help us sincerely to believe  
that we may worthily receive  
your supper and in you find rest.  
Amen! They who believe are blest.

Distribution Hymn: Just As I Am, without One Plea *CW 814*

1 Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, and waiting not  
to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

### Thanksgiving

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C: And his mercy endures forever.**

P: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: On My Heart Imprint Your Image** CW 405

**On my heart imprint your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Have no pow'r to hide your face.  
This the superscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation.**





