

God's Gift *of* Forgiveness

Delivered

Psalm 116

**Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2026
St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

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Rev. Jonathan F. Meyer

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Follow us on Facebook at: **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** & **St. Paul's Lutheran School**

6:30 PM

Maundy Thursday Worship

We welcome you to our worship service this evening.

St. Paul's has a service every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM.

Sunday School meets at 10:15 AM.

We request that members and visitors fill out an attendance card.

Please pass the card down to the center aisle after the offering.

You are welcome in this house.

The Mission at St. Paul's Lutheran Church is:

Preach and Teach to ALL, Comfort and Support those in need!

ACOLYTE: Paul Dunbar

LIVESTREAM: Paul Fisher

SOUND: Gerald Nolte

SCRIPTURE READER: Layton Heitfeld

ELDER OF THE DAY: Jonathan Becker & Paul Dunbar

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Jonathan Becker & Paul Dunbar

USHERS: Gene Breitenkamp, Bill White, James Wuerflein, Richard Burdick

Notes for this service:

Tonight –

Tonight's service begins the Holy Triduum, the three days preceding Easter, consisting of:

Maundy Thursday, when Jesus celebrates the Lord's Supper and is arrested;

Good Friday, when Jesus is tried, crucified, and dies; and

Holy Saturday, when Jesus' body is at Sabbath rest in the grave.

This evening does not end with Benediction; this is because tonight's service leads to tomorrow's Good Friday service. Likewise, tomorrow will not begin with an Invocation.

The service tonight concludes with the altar being stripped in preparation for Good Friday. When you leave this evening and when you arrive tomorrow evening, please do so in silence.

Absolution – Our theme this year is "God's Gift of Forgiveness." Christ has given to His Church the commandment to forgive the sins of the penitent sinner. Martin Luther writes in his Small Catechism

concerning absolution, “When the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular...when they absolve [forgive] those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ, our dear Lord, dealt with us Himself,” (5th Chief Part).

The Lord’s Supper – Finally, this evening we will also receive the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. We believe and teach the Real Presence of Christ – His body and blood sacramentally present for our forgiveness and nurture. In the Sacrament, Baptized Christians are joined in a very close, personal and intimate way with Christ and with one another as we receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ present in the bread and wine. (See 1 Cor. 10:16-17)

We believe that when a person partakes of the Sacrament he/she is also confessing his/her unreserved agreement with the doctrine and practice that is proclaimed from the altar and pulpit of which the Sacrament is administered. (See 1 Cor. 11:17-34)

We therefore ask that all visitors and guests who have not communed here before and wish to receive the Sacrament, or who might like to discuss this Communion practice, speak to an Elder or the Pastor before receiving the Lord’s Supper. Christians who do not share this confession of faith, or who have not been instructed in the Christian faith, are welcome to receive a blessing by kneeling at the railing and crossing your arms across your chest.

Please silence your cell phones at this time.

Service of Light

Prelude: “Lamb of God” – Violin Solo by Justin Wiederkehr

Please Stand.

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C **and the day is almost over.**

P Let Your light scatter the darkness
C **and illumine Your Church.**

P Joyous light of glory of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.
C **We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light.**

P We pray to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.
C **O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.**

P Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Hymn 547 – The Lamb

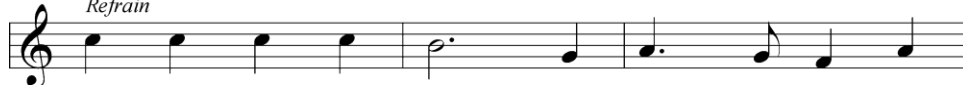


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His
own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

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Scripture Readings:

Exodus 24: 3-11

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.” ⁴And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” ⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Hebrews 9: 11-22

¹¹But when 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 blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify 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.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Luke 22:7–20

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." ⁹They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" ¹⁰He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters ¹¹and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹²And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." ¹³And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

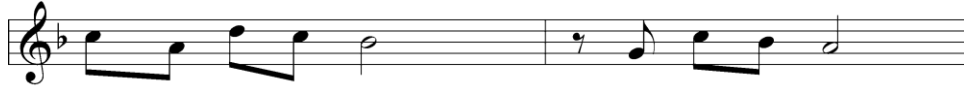
- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

Hymn 629 – What Is This Bread?



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for mine;	The	cup	of	grace
live	and	He should	Un - der	the	rod?	
Word	and	prom - ise	In	mouth	and	soul
giv - en	and	set free!	I	do	be -	lieve



This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	His	em - brace	Of	life	and	love	un - til	I		
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You	not	for - sak - en		
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru - ly	pres - ent	in	this		
That	I	re - ceive	His	ver - y	bod - y	and	His			



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

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Sermon – Delivered! – Psalm 116

The Offering

Corporate Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C **Amen.**

P I will go to the altar of God,

C **to God my exceeding joy.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other. Since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night when He instituted this blessed meal for our salvation, it is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently

examining ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. This holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you." It is as if He said, "I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat."

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and 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." Again, it is as if He said, "I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink."

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with the wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C **Amen.**

P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

C **Amen.**

C **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and 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 + 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. Be + at peace.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (spoken)

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.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell.

Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. 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.**

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

P In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

P 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."

P 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."

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei (spoken)

P O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

C **Have mercy upon us.**

P O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

C **Have mercy upon us.**

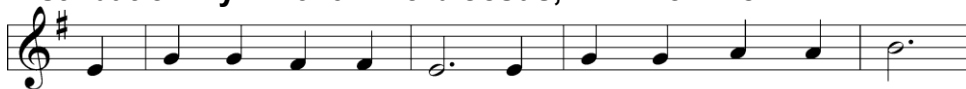
P O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

C **Grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn 610 – Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

Distribution Hymn 628 – Your Table I Approach



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Distribution Hymn 430 – My Song is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
 stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
 sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
 spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
 know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
 sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 Who at my need His life did spend!
 And for His death They thirst and cry.
 Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;
 A murderer they save, The Prince of Life they slay.
 Yet cheerful He To suffering goes
 That He His foes From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say? Heav'n was His home
 But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.
 This is my friend, In whose sweet praise
 I all my days Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683 Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962 Text: Public domain Tune: © John Ireland Trust. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004568

Stand

Post-Communion Collect

P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Be seated

Stripping of the Altar

The communion vessels, candles, offering plates and missile stand are reverently removed from the altar. The stripping of the altar and clearing the chancel is done in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday.

Please leave the sanctuary and property in silence.

Tomorrow evening is Good Friday. In recognition of the solemn nature of the evening that marks Jesus' crucifixion, please enter the sanctuary in silence. If you must visit, please do so either quietly in the narthex or outside. Thank you.

Join us Easter morning, 9am, for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

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