

RIVER OF LIFE



28 MARCH 2024



RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN | refreshing truth for all people

725 S. Estrella Pkwy (Suite 120) Goodyear, Arizona 85338

Holy Maundy Thursday

OUR PASTOR

Pastor Lincoln Albrecht (623) 312.8650 pastor.lincoln.albrecht@gmail.com

WELCOME TO RIVER OF LIFE

Thank you for joining us this evening. In our worship service, God's children—you & I—gather together before God to be strengthened through God's Word. In response to God's message of love to us, we offer God our worship and praise.

The worship folder you're holding has the entire Order of Service. If you have questions, feel free to ask one of our ushers or anyone near you. The unfamiliar can be intimidating—let us help you. We want you to be comfortable & comforted here.

Restrooms are located in the front corner for your convenience.

God wants everyone to worship together. We recognize that public worship is a learning process for children. Parents, if you feel like you need a moment, there is a room in the back of the worship area where you can see, hear, and participate in worship without being heard.

OUR FOCUS FOR WORSHIP THIS EVENING

Tonight, our focus is on the enduring, enriching, and encouraging sacrament of Holy Communion. As Jesus gathered with his disciples one final time before his crucifixion, they celebrated something old and something new. In celebrating the Passover, the people of God were reminded of how they were set free from slavery in Egypt. In instituting the Lord's Supper, the newly formed people of God are reassured of the freedom from sin, guilt, and shame won for us by the body and blood of the Lamb of God. This is the Holy Meal we celebrate this evening. As Jesus gives us his own body and blood, he is truly present in our midst. As Jesus gives us his own body and blood, he is truly active in uniting us as one body. What a joyful blessing it is to be united with Christ and one another!

OPENING HYMN

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior | 313 (1-4)



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way
2 As his pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre -
3 Je - sus here him - self is shar - ing; Take heed how
4 Use - less would be Je - sus' pas - sion If sal - va -



God's wrath for - ev - er; By his bit - ter grief and
cious food sup - ply - ing, Gives his bod - y with the
you are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be -
tion you could fash - ion. Do not come if you sup -



woe He saved us from the e - vil foe.
bread And with the wine the blood he shed.
lieve, Judg - ment in - stead you shall re - ceive.
pose You need not him who died and rose.

The Gathering

INVOCATION¹

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Minister: In this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation.

¹ The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. 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 his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In absolution, we receive forgiveness through his servants as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus 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.

In Holy Communion, 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 drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

P: Almighty God, merciful Father,

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

In what I have done and left undone,

I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.

I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.

For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

A moment of silence as we consider our sinfulness.

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**P: Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt.
Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light.

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.

P: Amen.

MUTUAL ENCOURAGEMENT

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, let us be reconciled with one another.

P: Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted | **127**

The congregation is invited to join in on the fourth stanza.

***Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt–
None shall ever be confounded Who on him their hope have built.***

PRAYER OF THE EVENING

M: ...for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

The Word

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 12

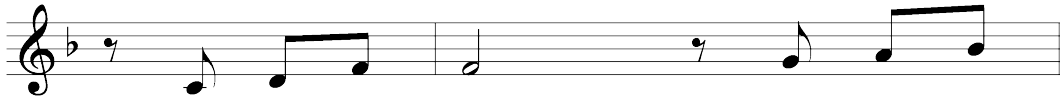
²¹ Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³ When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. ²⁴ "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. ²⁵ When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. ²⁶ And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' ²⁷ then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.' " Then the people bowed down and worshiped. ²⁸ The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron. ²⁹ At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. ³⁰ Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

VERSE OF THE EVENING

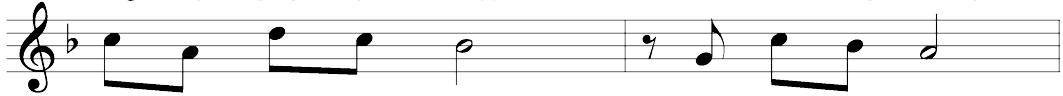
1 Corinthians 11:26

M: As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,

P: **You proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**



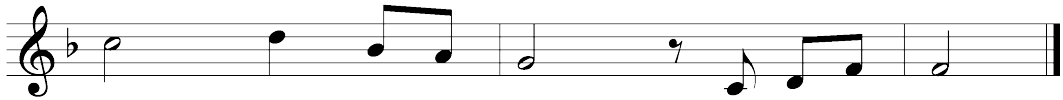
1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	that	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh, yes!	By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from	the	dead:	this	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	the	cup	of	grace
live	and	he	should	die	un -	der	the
Word	and	prom -	ise	clear,	in	mouth	and
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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 10

¹⁶ Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

¹² On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Say to the owner of the house he enters, '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 The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

²⁰ "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴ "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. ²⁵ "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

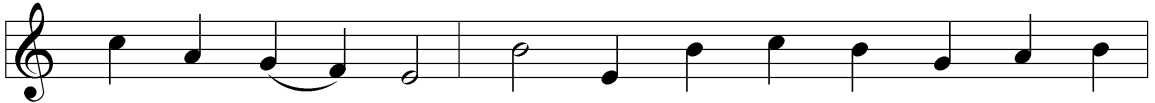
²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

HYMN OF THE EVENING

From Depths of Woe I Cry to You | 305



1 From depths of woe I cry to you; Lord, hear me,
 2 Your love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out
 3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in
 4 My soul is wait - ing for the Lord As one who



I im - plore you. Bend down your gra - cious ear to me;
 my trans - gres - sion. The best and ho - liest deeds must fail
 my own mer - it; It rests up - on his faith - ful Word
 longs for morn - ing; No watch - er waits with great - er hope



My prayer let come be - fore you. If you kept
 To break sin's dread op - pres - sion. Be - fore you
 To them of con - trite spir - it. That he is
 Than I for his re - turn - ing. I hope as



rec - ord of my sin And held a - gainst me
 none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear your
 mer - ci - ful and just— This is my com - fort
 Is - rael in the Lord; He sends re - demp - tion



what I've been, How could I stand be - fore you?
 strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.
 and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.
 through his Word. We praise him for his mer - cy.

Our Response to God's Word

M: Christ has invited us to participate in a divine fellowship. He has made us, who are many, into one body. By God's grace, we confess our common faith.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

**eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

THANK OFFERING



God's people respond with thankful hearts. The people of River of Life have joined to offer God the first-fruits of all he has given us. Our offerings support God's work in this community and the world. If you are a visitor with us, thank you for joining us tonight. Please do not feel obligated to support our ministry, but we ask that you do take time to fill out a digital connect card (azriveroflife.com/connect) so we can thank you for joining us. Thank you & God bless you!

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

M: Let us pray:

Lord God, Heavenly Father, you called us by name and declared that we were your children through the washing of our baptisms.

P: We desire, now, to receive the true body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, in this holy meal.

M: Continue to grant us grace, that we may stand before you and the body of believers and faithfully speak of the hope that is ours through your life, death, and resurrection.

P: Strengthen each one of us. Grant us the forgiveness of sins and the ability to do that which pleases you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

M: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is good and right so to do.

M: 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 a tree, 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

Sanctus | SOTWS



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

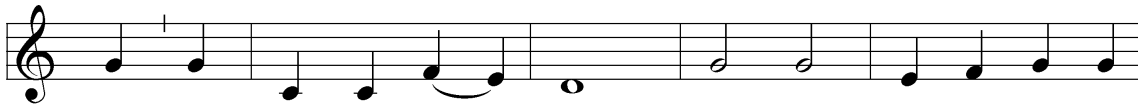
P: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei | SOTWS



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



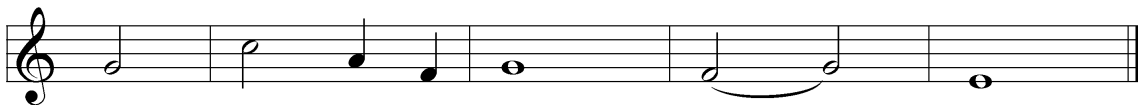
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION



At River of Life, we believe that in the Lord's Supper, along with the bread & wine, we miraculously receive the real body & blood of Christ for the full forgiveness of sins. Scripture directs believers in preparation and reception: **"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."** (1 Cor. 11:29)

This meal is also an expression of unity with one another: **"Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf."** (1 Cor. 10:17) Therefore we ask that if you are not familiar with our teachings, please speak with Pastor Albrecht before taking the Lord's Supper. Thank you.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, you have pre - pared This feast for
 2 Al - though you did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel
 3 Yet, Sav - ior, you are not con - fined To an - y
 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious
 5 Though rea - son can - not un - der - stand, Yet faith this



our sal - va - tion; It is your bod - y
 hosts are dwell - ing, And in your pres - ence
 hab - i - ta - tion, But you are pres - ent
 Word be - liev - ing That your true bod - y
 truth em - brac - es: Your bod - y, Lord, is



and your blood, And at your in - vi - ta - tion
 they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
 ev - 'ry - where And with your con - gre - ga - tion.
 and your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.
 ev - 'ry - where At once in man - y plac - es.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to
 And though your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, And there is
 I leave to you how this can be; Your Word a -



you for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.
 and your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
 an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
 naught you can - not do, For you, Lord, are al - might - y.
 lone suf - fic - es me; I trust its truth un - fail - ing.

Additional stanzas are available in the red hymnal or on the screens.

The Stripping of the Altar ²

M: After this evening's Passover meal and the institution of the Lord's Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained before Jesus' death. In anguish, he prayed for the glory of God and the advancement of his kingdom. In anguish, he offered petitions for his disciples. In anguish, he prayed for all believers of all time. Despite pain and agony, he suffered for all our sins.

P: Lord, you are the God who saves me. Day and night I cry out to you. May my prayer come before you. Turn your ear to my cry. I am overwhelmed with troubles and my life draws near to death.

M: He was betrayed by a close friend; arrested under cover of darkness; convicted by a corrupt court; beaten; spit upon and mocked. As he walked to Calvary, his life was stripped from him. Tonight, we strip our altar of all signs of life to symbolize his suffering and death.

P: I am counted among those who go down to the pit. I am like one without strength. I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care.

M: We love because he first loved us. Our financial gifts are one way we reflect God's love for us and remember God's greatest gift to us. As we remove our offerings, we remember how the Son of God was betrayed for a mere pittance and whisked away by wicked men.

Offering plates are removed.

P: You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths. Your wrath lies heavily on me; you have overwhelmed me with all your waves. You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them.

M: The missal stand and altar book guide our responses of praise and joy. As Jesus suffers for our sins, our joy is muted. We remove words of praise.

Altar book and missal stand are removed.

² As we remove the signs of life from the altar area, God's people speak words from **Psalm 88**.

P: I am confined and cannot escape. My eyes are dim with grief. I call to you, Lord, every day. I spread out my hands to you.

M: Jesus offered his body and shed his blood for us all on Calvary's cross. These same gracious gifts he offers to us in, with, and under the bread and the wine of Holy Communion. As he was removed from us in his suffering and death, we remove the elements and vessels of the Supper.

Communion ware and elements are removed.

P: But I cry to you for help, Lord; in the morning my prayer comes before you. Why, Lord, do you reject me and hide your face from me?

M: Our altar functions as a table for the Feast. Here our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal. The coverings are made of materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King of kings' body was stripped in his crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

Altar cloths are removed.

P: Your wrath has swept over me. Your terrors have destroyed me. All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me.

M: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." The events of Golgotha snuffed out the life of Christ, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when he suffered, so we extinguish our candles.

Candles are extinguished.

P: You have taken from me friend and neighbor—

M: Darkness is my closest friend.

Longing for a word of blessing, God's people leave in somber silence.

**JOIN US TOMORROW AFTERNOON (4 PM) FOR GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP.
CELEBRATE JESUS' RESURRECTION AND OURS THIS SUNDAY (9 AM).**
