

*Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church*  
*Thursday, April 2, 2026*  
*Maundy Thursday*

# Standing at the Cross

A Worship Series for Lent, Holy Week and Easter on Themes from Martin Luther

Pastor Kevin Hahn

## Maundy Thursday: Standing in Faith

*For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26*

**Hymn**                      *Go to Dark Gethsemane*                      LSB #436 vs.1-3

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r; Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour; Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned; Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame or loss, learn from him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet, Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete. "It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

**INVOCATION AND RESPONSIVE READING**      1 Corinthians 10:16-17

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

**C Amen.**

P The cup of blessing that we bless,

**C Is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?**

P The bread that we break,

**C Is it not a participation in the body of Christ?**

P Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,

**C For we all partake of the one bread.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

**C Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts,**

**words and actions. We follow our sinful desires and the temptations of the world. Called to faith we often turn from your Word and will to live in faithless ways. Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

**P** God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to save us. Through Jesus' death and resurrection we have forgiveness and life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Lord, nourish us with your Word and with our Savior's body and blood. Help us to stand firm in faith in Jesus' name. Amen**

**Hymn**                      *Go to Dark Gethsemane*                      LSB #436 vs.4

Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay; All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away? Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

OLD TESTAMENT ... Jeremiah 31:31-34

EPISTLE ... 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

GOSPEL ... Luke 22:14-20

**Hymn**                      *I Am Trusting Thee*                      LSB #729 vs.1 & 3

**I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus, trusting only thee; Trusting thee for full salvation, great and free.**

**I am trusting thee for cleansing in the crimson flood; Trusting thee to make me holy by thy blood.**

*"The bread he proffers is his Body, and the cup or wine is his Blood, or the New Testament in his Blood. In childlike faith we should partake, without doubting, and believe it to be so." (Martin Luther, a sermon for Maundy Thursday, 1534)*

### **SERMON: "Standing in Faith"**

**Hymn**                      *Your Table I Approach*                      **LSB #628**

Your table I approach; dear Savior, hear my prayer. Let not an unrepentant heart prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands; A contrite heart  
is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and your blood, once slain and shed for me. Are taken at  
your table, Lord, in blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, this wondrous mystery; God can  
accomplish vastly more than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, that earth and hell combined May not about  
this sacrament raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail to thank you day and night For your true body and  
true blood, O God, my peace and light.

## OFFERING

## PRAYERS

### LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

### SILENT / PRIVATE / PERSONAL PRAYER

as the Lord's Table is prepared –

Welcome to the Lord's Supper. In order to receive the blessing of this  
Sacrament (1 Corinthians 11:28-29), ask yourself the following  
questions:

1. Am I sorry for my sins?
2. Do I believe that Jesus is my Savior who forgives my  
sins through his body and blood that I receive in the  
bread and wine?
3. Do I plan, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to change my  
sinful life?

## WORDS OF CHRIST AS HE INSTITUTED HIS HOLY MEAL

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20;*

*1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

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."  
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 covenant 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."

### LORD'S SUPPER

*"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"*

LSB #435

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,  
Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain  
Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide,  
Opened when our Savior died.

Come in poverty and meanness,  
Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness,  
From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white;  
Ye shall walk with God in light.

Come in sorrow and contrition,  
Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission,  
Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore;  
They that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever;  
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never  
Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died,  
Sealed when He was glorified.

Draw near and take the body of the Lord,  
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for least,  
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,  
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,  
And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

I Come, O Savior... LSB #618

I come, O Savior, to Thy table,  
For weak and weary is my soul;  
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able  
To satisfy and make me whole: *REFRAIN*

*REFRAIN* Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood  
Be for my soul the highest good!

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning  
That sinners may salvation see  
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;  
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *REFRAIN*

Unworthy though I am, O Savior,  
Because I have a sinful heart,  
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,  
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: *REFRAIN*

Weary am I and heavy laden;  
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;  
Receive me graciously and gladden  
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. *REFRAIN*

What higher gift can we inherit?  
It is faith's bond and solid base;  
It is the strength of heart and spirit,  
The covenant of hope and grace. *REFRAIN*

## PRAYER

- P Lord Jesus Christ, we give You thanks for having fed us Your body and blood and for covering all our sins with Your forgiveness. As we prepare to approach again the remembrance of Your suffering and death upon the cross, renew our strength and make us strong in Your grace, so that we may serve You with all our heart, mind, body, and soul; whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You are one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

- P This is the night in which our Lord was betrayed. After he had instituted the meal we call the Lord's Supper, he and the eleven disciples went out to the Garden of Gethsemane, where he knew Judas would come to set in motion the events leading to his crucifixion. All the objects in the chancel are symbols related to our Lord, the light of the world, the Word of God in the flesh, the covering for our sins, and so on. This evening, they are stripped from the altar—which represents Jesus himself—just as he was struck, humiliated, tortured, and taken to the cross. The stripping of the altar refers to the removing all ornaments, linens, and paraments. It is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. It points to the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers.

After the Last Supper, events in our Lord's life moved rapidly:  
prayer in Gethsemane,  
betrayal by Judas,  
arrest, mock trial, painful beating,  
the trudge to Golgotha and execution.

As his life was stripped from him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to point to His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

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 human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when He suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

*[Candles extinguished and removed]*

Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in sending His Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

*[Offerings are removed]*

The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand.

*[Missal stand and service books are removed]*

Jesus' offered Body and His shed Blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

*[Communion vessels are removed]*

The altar reminds of the cross where God offered his Son as a once-for-all sacrifice. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. His death on a cross paid for our sins in full. No more sacrifice is needed. There is nothing left for us to pay even if we wanted to. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen; materials appropriate for a King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

*[Altar cloths and paraments are removed]*

*(After the stripping of the altar has been completed, all may leave the church as usual.)*

*Holy Week services continue tomorrow on Good Friday  
with worship at 6:15PM*

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