



**Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School  
Grafton, WI  
April 2, 2026**

## **The Triduum**

The three days of Holy Week, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, are the climax of the church year. Throughout the centuries, these three services were viewed as one continuous service that began on Holy Thursday and ended on Easter morning.

### **Part I. Holy Thursday**

Holy Thursday marks the end of Lent proper and begins the Triduum. At the conclusion of the worship service, there is no blessing or benediction. Instead, the candles and communion vessels are removed. The altar is stripped, symbolizing the abandonment of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

### **Part II. Good Friday**

Good Friday's first service is the service of the cross. This service is a meditative service focusing on the redemption of Christ, and prayer. Good Friday's second service is known as a *Tenebrae* (darkness) service. This service centers on a reflection of the Lord's crucifixion and our repentance. As the service progresses, seven candles are extinguished, one candle at a time, until only one candle remains. That candle is removed from the chancel, leaving the sanctuary in darkness. The service is closed by a loud noise called a *strepitus* that foreshadows the rending of Christ's tomb on Easter. The solitary candle is then returned to the sanctuary, anticipating the joy of Easter morning.

### **Part III. Easter Sunday**

Easter morning is the climax to the Triduum. The service begins with the joyous cry "Christ is risen!" to which the congregation responds, "He is risen indeed!" The entire Easter morning service is a celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death and the power of the devil. That joy climaxes as the worshipper receives once again the blessing of the Lord at the conclusion of the service. The joy of Easter then continues throughout the rest of the church year.

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#### **SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY:**

Presiding:  
Organist:

Jonathan Fischer  
Jon Hahm

# Holy Thursday

## When You Woke That Thursday Morning

CW 416

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

## Confession

Brothers and sisters in Christ, 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. 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 the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. We should not doubt this absolution 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, first instituted on this night, 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.

As we begin the solemn celebration of our Lord's passion, let us confess our sins to him, receive his absolution, and be reconciled to God and each other in Christian love.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

**Amen.**

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

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

## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Zechariah 13:1–3*

<sup>1</sup>“On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

<sup>2</sup>“On that day, I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more,” declares the LORD Almighty. “I will remove both the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land. <sup>3</sup>And if anyone still prophesies, their father and mother, to whom they were born, will say to them, ‘You must die, because you have told lies in the LORD’s name.’ Then their own parents will stab the one who prophesies.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# 116C I Will Walk in the Presence of God

Psalm 116C

Pastor will sing the stanzas the congregation will join in on the refrains.

## Verses



1 For the love of the One who has heard my cry:  
2 In the cords of my death, I was tan - gled round:  
3 God is mer - cy and grace and the sim - ple are blest:  
4 God has raised up my soul from the gates of death:  
5 What re - turn can I give for the gifts I claim?



I will walk in the pres - ence of God.



1 God has heard my dis - tress, and I shall not die:  
2 Those who seek you in an - guish shall not be bound:  
3 Raised me up in my pain, God my safe - ty and rest:  
4 God has dried all my tears and re - newed my breath:  
5 Lift the cup of sal - va - tion and praise your name:



I will walk in the pres - ence of God.

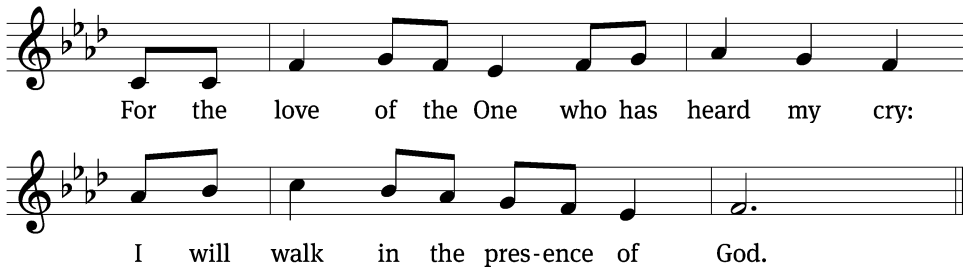
## Refrain



I will walk in the pres - ence of God



in the land, in the land of the liv - ing.



For the love of the One who has heard my cry:  
I will walk in the presence of God.

## Second Reading

*1 Corinthians 11:23–28*

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup>In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup>For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

<sup>27</sup>So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup>Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Stand

## Gospel Acclamation

John 13:1



### Refrain



Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, king of end - less glo - ry.

### Tone



Having loved his own who were in the world,



he loved them to the end.

## Gospel

John 13:1-15,34

<sup>1</sup>It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

<sup>2</sup>The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup>so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup>After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

<sup>8</sup>"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

<sup>9</sup>“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

<sup>12</sup>When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. <sup>13</sup>“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

<sup>34</sup>“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**It Was a Dark and Dismal Night**

CW 417

**Sermon**

*Zechariah 13:1–3*

**Cleansing Fountain**

*Space is provided for you to take notes during the sermon.*

*Stand*

## **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 truly 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.**

*Be seated*

## The Great Litany

### PRAYER OF APPROACH TO GOD

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,  
**Have mercy on us.**

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**Have mercy on us.**

O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God,  
**Have mercy on us.**

### PRAYERS FOR DELIVERANCE

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses nor the offenses of our forebears. Spare us, good Lord; spare your people whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.

From all spiritual blindness; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all lack of charity;

From all deadly sin and from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil;

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism, from hardness of heart and contempt for your Word and your will;

From earthquake and tempest; from drought, fire, and flood; from civil strife and violence; from war and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared;  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

## **PRAYER RECALLING CHRIST'S SAVING WORK**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and by your proclamation of the kingdom;

By your bloody sweat and bitter grief, by your cross and suffering, and by your precious death and burial;

By your mighty resurrection, by your glorious ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit;

In our times of trouble, in our times of prosperity, in the hour of death, and on the day of judgment;

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

Receive our prayers, O Lord our God.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

## **FOR THE CHURCH**

Govern and direct your holy Church, fill it with love and truth, and grant it that unity which is according to your will.

Enlighten all ministers with true knowledge and understanding of your Word, that by their preaching and living they may declare it clearly and show its truth.

Encourage and prosper your servants who spread the gospel in all the world, and send out laborers into the harvest.

Bless and keep your people, that all may find and follow their true vocation and ministry.

Give us hearts to love and reverence you, that we may diligently live according to your commandments.

To all your people, give grace to hear and receive your Word and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Strengthen those who stand firm in the faith, encourage the fainthearted, raise up those who fall, and finally give us the victory.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

#### **FOR OUR COUNTRY**

Rule the hearts of your servants, the president of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth.

Bless and defend all who strive for our safety and protection and shield them in all dangers and adversities.

Grant wisdom and insight to those who govern us and to judges and magistrates the grace to execute justice with mercy.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

#### **FOR ALL PEOPLE**

To all nations grant unity, peace, and concord, and to all people give clothing, food, and shelter.

Grant us abundant harvests, strength and skill to conserve the resources of the earth, and wisdom to use them well.

Enlighten with your Spirit all who teach and all who learn.

Come to the help of all who are in danger, necessity, and trouble; protect all who travel by land, air, or water; and show your pity on all prisoners and captives.

Strengthen and preserve all women who are in childbirth and all young children, and comfort the aged, the bereaved, and the lonely.

Defend and provide for the widowed and the orphaned, the refugees and the homeless, the unemployed, and all who are desolate and oppressed.

Heal those who are sick in body or mind and give skill and compassion to all who care for them. [Especially we pray for... *here name the person and the cause of the petition*].

Grant us true repentance, forgive our sins, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your Holy Word.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

### CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Son of God,  
**we ask you to hear us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
**Grant us peace.**

Lord, have mercy on us.  
**Christ, have mercy on us.**

Lord, have mercy on us.  
**Amen.**

## Offering

*Our Savior's ministries are supported by the joyful and generous gifts of her members. If you are not a member of Our Savior, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. It is our privilege and pleasure to serve you with God's Word today. You may make your gift in the following ways:*

**Give In person:** The offering is collected during each service.

**Give with the App:** Download the *Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement* app, search near me and select "Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran".

**Give Online** [Oursaviorgrafton.org/give](https://Oursaviorgrafton.org/give).



During the offering, please sign the friendship register located in each pew.  
Or use the following QR code to log attendance online:



## The Sacrament

*Stand*

### Preface

CW 183

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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 184

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of 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!

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.  
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.  
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

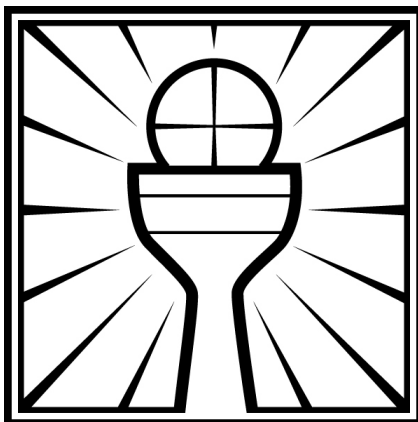
## Words of Institution

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.

**Amen.**



# Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Be seated

## Distribution

*Out of sincere love for the truth of God's Word and precious souls, we practice closed Communion in our congregation. This has been the practice of Christians for centuries and is thoroughly scriptural. It neither questions the faith nor judges the heart of any individual, yet expects that there be full doctrinal agreement among those who commune. For this reason, we ask that only members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) join us for the Lord's Supper today. If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Fischer after the service.*

*Stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Stripping of the Altar

*As the service concludes, everything on the altar is removed, symbolizing the disciples abandoning Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. As the altar is stripped, Psalm 88 will be read by our reader.*

### **Psalm 88**

Lord, you are the God who saves me;  
day and night I cry out to you.  
May my prayer come be-fore you;  
turn your ear to my cry.  
I am overwhelmed with troubles  
and my life draws near to death.  
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.  
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.  
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.  
Do you show your wonders to the dead?  
Do their spirits rise up and praise you?  
Is your love declared in the grave,  
your faithfulness in Destruction?  
Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,  
or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?  
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?  
From my youth I have suffered and been close to death;  
I have borne your terrors and am in despair.  
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.  
You have taken from me friend and neighbor—  
darkness is my closest friend.

*The minister exits in silence.*

*Worshippers may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.*

**Holy Thursday Worship**

3:30 p.m. • 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday Worship**

1:00 p.m. • 7:00 p.m.

**Easter Worship**

8:00 a.m. • 10:30 a.m.

**Breakfast**

9:15a.m. - 10:15a.m.



**Our Savior**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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