

APRIL 2, 2026 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

WATER AND BLOOD

On this night when our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed into the hands of sinful men, we receive the blessings of forgiveness and new life as we partake of the Lord's Supper. Looking ahead to the death of Jesus on Calvary's cross, we remember with the apostle John that both water and blood flowed from Jesus' side as He was pierced by the spear of a Roman soldier (John 19:34). The flowing water reminds us of the mystery of our Baptism, as God the Father cleanses us of our sin and makes us His children. The flowing blood reminds us of the deep love of the Savior, who allowed Himself to die a horrific death so that we may experience a glorious resurrection, and it points to the Sacrament of our Lord's body and blood. May the blessings of Jesus flow into our lives as we gather to worship Him.

HYMN

“Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying” (LSB 597)

1 Water, blood, and Spirit crying,
By their witness testifying
To the One whose death-defying
Life has come, with life for all.

2 In a wat'ry grave are buried
All our sins that Jesus carried;
Christ, the Ark of Life, has ferried
Us across death's raging flood.

3 Dark the way, yet Christ precedes us,
Past the scowl of death He leads us;
Spreads a table where He feeds us
With His body and His blood.

4 Though around us death is seething,
God, His two-edged sword unsheathing,
By His Spirit life is breathing
Through the living, active Word.

5 Spirit, water, blood entreating,
Working faith and its completing
In the One whose death-defeating
Life has come, with life for all.

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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.

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

CONFESSIONAL ADDRESS

- 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. As our Lord on this night exemplified this love by washing His disciples' feet, so we by our words and actions serve one another in love. 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 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 for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **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.

P 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. Go in ✠ peace.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 17:1-7

P The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, the seventeenth chapter.

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water

for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 23

P The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

P He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.

C Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

P for You are with me;

C Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE

1 John 5:5–12

P The Epistle is from First John, the fifth chapter.

⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. ⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that He has borne concerning His Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning His Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

John 13:1b

Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 14:12–26

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, [Jesus'] disciples said to Him, "Where will You have us go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?" ¹³And He sent two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is My guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?' ¹⁵And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." ¹⁶And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷And when it was evening, He came with the twelve. ¹⁸And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me, one who is eating with Me." ¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and to say to Him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with Me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if He had not been born."

²²And as they were eating, He took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is My body." ²³And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

"Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior" (*LSB* 619)

1 Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior,
Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever,
By them my hungry soul is fed. Refrain

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

2 With Thee, Lord, I am now united;
I live in Thee and Thou in me.
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted
It finds its only joy in Thee. Refrain

3 Who can condemn me now? For surely
The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely
With Jesus I to heaven rise. Refrain

4 Though death may threaten with disaster,
It cannot rob me of my cheer;
For He who is of death the master
With aid and comfort e'er is near. Refrain

5 My heart has now become Thy dwelling,
O blessèd, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Thy praises telling,
Shall live in joy eternally. Refrain

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SERMON

NICENE CREED

**C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,**

**who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You that You have gathered us together on this night when Your Son instituted the Supper we are privileged to receive.
- C** **Grant that the promised treasures of Your Word remind us of the mercy You give to us by the water and the blood.**
- P** Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,
- C** **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**
- P** Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.
- C** **Encourage our hearts and minds as we hold fast to Your Word, knowing that all You accomplished during Holy Week was done for our salvation.**
- P** Holy Spirit, make us one through this sacred Meal we now prepare our hearts to receive, that in the communion of saints we may be strengthened in our fellowship with Christ Jesus and with one another.
- C** **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” (*LSB 637*)

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

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C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

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.

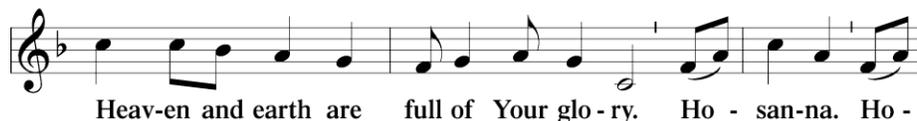
PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again

and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB, p. 161



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB, p. 161

P Blessed are 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.

Your Word declares that the wages for our sin is death. We have been spared this consequence by the substitution of Christ Jesus in our place upon the cross.

We give thanks for the water and blood that flowed from His pierced side, for in this cleansing flood we are given Your remission for all our transgressions. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of Christ's cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. 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

LSB, p. 162

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB, p. 162

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 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.”

PAX DOMINI

LSB, p. 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB, p. 163



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“O Lord, We Praise Thee” (LSB 617)

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:

O Lord, have mercy!

May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:

O Lord, have mercy!

2 Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!

O Lord, have mercy!

Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made:

O Lord, have mercy!

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion!

O Lord, have mercy!

Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:

O Lord, have mercy!

“O Living Bread from Heaven” (LSB 642)

1 O living Bread from heaven,
How well You feed your guest!
The gifts that You have given
Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,
Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
With praises overflows.

2 My Lord, You here have led me
To this most holy place
And with Yourself have fed me
The treasures of Your grace;
For You have freely given
What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.

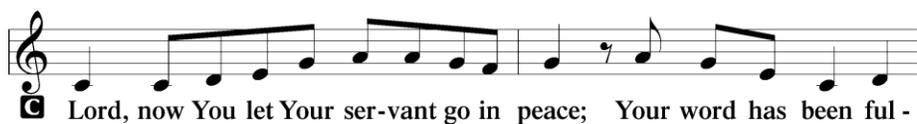
3 You gave me all I wanted;
This food can death destroy.
And You have freely granted
The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
The favor You have shown,
And all my soul and spirit
Bow down before Your throne.

4 Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened
With heav'nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened,
To serve with holy fear.
And when You call my spirit
To leave this world below,
I enter, through Your merit,
Where joys unmingled flow.

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POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

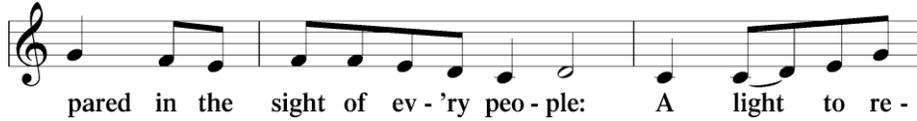
LSB, p. 165



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



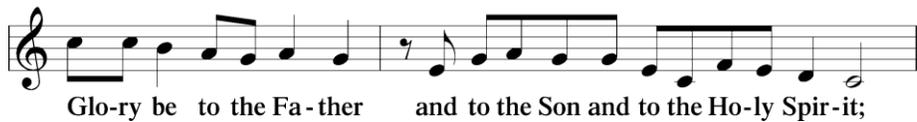
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



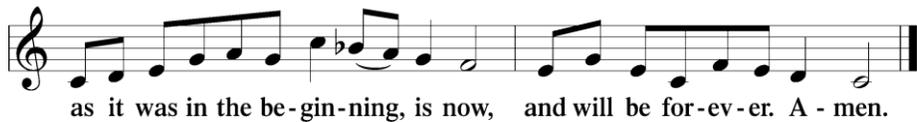
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

LSB, p. 166

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, in love and mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh. We thank You that You have given us pardon and peace in this Supper. Grant us faith always to trust that by the water and blood that flowed from Your pierced side You have fully and freely poured out Your forgiveness upon us all; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” (*LSB* 436:1–3)

1 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.

2 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 suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

3 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.

Text: Public domain

+ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR +

The Communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday.

PSALM

Psalm 22

¹My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*

Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My | groaning?

**²O My God, I cry by day, but You do not | answer,*
and by night, but I | find no rest.**

³Yet You are | holy,*
enthroned on the praises of | Israel.

⁴In You our fathers | trusted;*
they trusted, and You delivered them.

⁵To You they cried and were | rescued;*

in You they trusted and were not | put to shame.

⁶But I am a worm and | not a man,*
scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.

⁷All who see Me | mock Me;*

they make mouths at Me; they | wag their heads;

⁸"He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver Him;*
let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!"

⁹Yet You are He who took Me | from the womb;*

You made Me trust You at My | mother's breasts.

**¹⁰On You was I cast | from My birth,*
and from My mother's womb You have | been My God.**

¹¹Be not far from Me,
for trouble | is near,*
and there is | none to help.

**¹²Many bulls encompass Me;*
strong bulls of Bashan surround Me;**

¹³they open wide their | mouths at Me,*
like a ravening and roaring | lion.

**¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all My bones are | out of joint;*
My heart is like wax;
it is melted within My breast;**

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and My tongue sticks | to My jaws;*
You lay Me in the | dust of death.

**¹⁶For dogs encompass Me;*
a company of evildoers encircles Me;
they have pierced My | hands and feet—**

¹⁷I can count | all My bones—*
they stare and gloat | over Me;

**¹⁸they divide My garments among them,*
and for My clothing they | cast lots.**

¹⁹But You, O LORD, do not be | far off!*
O You My help, come quickly | to My aid!

**²⁰Deliver My soul | from the sword,*
My precious life from the power | of the dog!**

²¹Save Me from the mouth of the | lion!*
You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild | oxen!

**²²I will tell of Your name to My | brothers;*
in the midst of the congregation I will | praise You:**

²³You who fear the LORD, praise Him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him,*
and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of | Israel!

**²⁴For He has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and He has not hidden His | face from Him,*
but has heard, when He | cried to Him.**

²⁵From You comes My praise in the great congregation;*
My vows I will perform before those who | fear Him.

**²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek Him shall | praise the LORD!*
May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn | to the LORD,*
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before You.

**²⁸For kingship belongs | to the LORD,*
and He rules over the | nations.**

²⁹All the prosperous of the earth eat and | worship;*
before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

**³⁰Posterity shall | serve Him;*
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;**

³¹they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people | yet unborn,*
that He has | done it.

All leave the church in silence.