

Welcome to Tree of Life!

The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome!

We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net). As congregation of this synod, we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people. We don't claim to be the only saving church, but we do strive to preserve and pass on the truth as it's found in the Bible. We at Tree of Life believe and teach that...

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, with no mistakes and no errors, his unchanging message to all people of all times:
"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)
2. God created people holy and without sin, but by their own choice they disobeyed God and brought sin upon the whole human race: **"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)**
3. The final result of sin is not only the end of our earthly life, but eternal death and separation from God in the agony of hell: **"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)**
4. The main and central message of the Bible is the gospel - the good news that: **"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but has eternal life." (John 3:16)**
5. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life in the place of every human being, and Jesus suffered the punishment of hell for the whole human race when he died on the cross:
"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)
6. God the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens saving faith in Jesus Christ through the message about him in the Bible, in Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper: **"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the words of Christ." (Romans 10:17)**
7. Christians do good works, not in order to earn a place in heaven, but out of love and thanks to God who has already given them eternal life as a free gift through Jesus: **"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free." (Psalm 119:32)**
8. Christians will want to gather together regularly around the Word of God for the strengthening of their own trust in Jesus and for encouraging each other in the faith: **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the (final) Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)**
9. Christians want to carry out the Lord's great commission to spread the good news about Jesus to others:
"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15)
10. When the Lord returns in judgment on the last day, he will raise all the dead and give the full glory of everlasting life in heaven to all who trusted in him as Savior: **"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)**

*We invite you to worship with us again and we sincerely hope that you will accept this invitation.
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.*



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
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Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday

APRIL 9, 2009

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS, I SEE... A CLEANSING

Good evening!

Welcome to time with your Savior. May tonight be a time of reflection and meditation, reflection and rejoicing. As we sit around the table with Jesus, may we hear his words and marvel that we have been cleansed and included in this new covenant of grace in his body and blood. This evening's worship will follow the Gospel account according to Mark 14:12-26.

Opening Hymn..... "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross" *Christian Worship Hymn 125*

When I survey the wondrous cross	See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
On which the Prince of glory died,	Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
My richest gain I count but loss	Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
And pour contempt on all my pride.	Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast	Were the whole realm of nature mine,
Save in the death of Christ, my God.	That were a tribute far too small;
All the vain things that charm me most,	Love so amazing, so divine,
I sacrifice them to his blood.	Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

SERMON

Colossians 1:15-23
Vicar Steve Neuman

Closing Hymn “How Beautiful”

Words & Music by Twila Paris; Arranged by Benjamine Harlan

Verses 1-3 sung by the Choir Congregation joins in on Verse 4

Verse 4: *Choir and Congregation*

How beautiful the feet that bring
the sound of good news and the love of the King.
How beautiful the hands that serve
the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful
is the body of Christ.

FOLLOWING THE HYMN, PLEASE LEAVE THE CHURCH IN SILENCE.

OFFERINGS CAN BE PLACED IN THE PLATE ON YOUR WAY OUT.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP CONTINUES TOMORROW ON GOOD FRIDAY AT 7:00 PM

M: Let us now journey with our Savior to the upper room.

M: *(Mark 14:12-16)* ¹²On the first day of the Feast 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?"

¹³So 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. ¹⁴Say 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?" ¹⁵He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

¹⁶The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

M: So that we all might be reminded of the events and significance of the Passover meal, follow as Exodus 12 is read.

EXODUS 12

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb ⁴ for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire— head, legs and inner parts. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

Continued on next page

¹² "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

¹⁴ "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD -a lasting ordinance. ¹⁵ For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat—that is all you may do.

¹⁷ "Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. ¹⁸ In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. ¹⁹ For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel, whether he is an alien or native-born. ²⁰ Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread."

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. Not one of you shall go out the door of his 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.

C: As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand and its book.

M: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." *John 8:12* The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world.

C: As creation was dark when he suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

M: 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.

C: As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

M: The altar is the place where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at his banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade; materials appropriate for feasting with our King.

C: As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

M: Let us now begin our preparation for Good Friday, when we will hear in greater detail the fullness of God's love for us.

C: Until tomorrow, we go in peace.

Hymn..... “The Death Of Jesus Christ, Our Lord”
Verses 1-3 *Christian Worship Hymn 135*

The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord, We celebrate with one accord;
It is our comfort in distress, Our heart's sweet joy and happiness.

He blotted out with his own blood The judgment that against us stood;
He full atonement for us made, And all our debt he fully paid.

That this forever true shall be He gives a solemn guarantee;
In this his holy supper here We taste his love, so sweet, so near.

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

M: (*Mark 14:26*) They went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus knew what was coming, he would suffer and die. Yet he did not run away, he did not give up, but resolutely went to the cross. As we remove elements from the altar, we are reminded of the sacrifice he made.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

M: After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly:
prayer in Gethsemane;
betrayal by Judas;
arrest, mock trial; painful beating;
the trudge to Golgotha and execution.

Jesus' offered body and his shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the bread and wine in this holy mystery.

C: As he was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this sacrament.

M: 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.

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.

Hymn..... “Lamb Of God, Pure And Holy”
Christian Worship Hymn 268

Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!

Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Your peace be with us, O Jesus!

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross did suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Yourself to scorn did offer.
All sins you carried for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!

M: (*Mark 14:17*) When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve.

“The Upper Room”

Quartet: Dawn Williams, Philip Williams, Sarah Neuman & Pastor Mike Geiger

M: (*Mark 14:18-21*) While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

¹⁹They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?"

²⁰"It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹The 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."

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Judas is not the only one at fault. We too must acknowledge our sin and the reasons we have betrayed our Savior. Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

**C: 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.**

Silence for meditation

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

**C: 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.

C: Amen.

M: To assure us of forgiveness, Jesus continued:

(Mark 14:22-25) While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

²³Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered 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"I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

"Song of Remembrance" Choir

M: As Jesus gave of his body and blood first to his disciples, he does also to us. Hear with believing hearts the words of promise attached to these simple earthly elements:

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.

M: The Lord invites all who believe in him, have a repentant heart and a common confession of faith to come forward to join him at his table of forgiveness.

THE SACRAMENT

The Celebration of Holy Communion



At Tree of Life, we desire to have all commune with us at the Lord's Table. However, since the Scripture encourages us to "recognize the body and blood of the Lord," "examine ourselves," and join together as "one body," we ask those who are visiting with us this morning to take the time to understand these teachings and establish a unity of beliefs with us before partaking of this act of fellowship. By this practice of close communion, we are in no way judging your personal faith and relationship with Jesus, we just ask for an opportunity for us to share our beliefs with you so that together we can make a true expression of oneness at the Lord's Table.

DISTRIBUTION

M: *(Mark 14:26)* When they finished the meal, they sang a hymn.