# Holy Thursday
# April 2, 2026

## 445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning

*sts. 1–4*

**1 When You woke that Thursday morning,**
**Savior, teacher, faithful friend,**
**Thoughts of self and safety scorning,**
**Knowing how the day would end;**
**Lamb of God, foretold for ages,**
**Now at last the hour had come**
**When but One could pay sin's wages:**
**You assumed their dreadful sum.**

**2 Never so alone and lonely,**
**Longing with tormented heart**
**To be with Your dear ones only**
**For a quiet hour apart:**
**Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,**
**One last paschal meal to eat,**
**One last lesson as their teacher,**
**Washing Your disciples' feet.**

**3 What was there that You could give them**
**That would never be outspent,**
**What great gift that would outlive them,**
**What last will and testament?**
**"Show Me and the world you love Me,**
**Know Me as the Lamb of God:**
**Do this in remembrance of Me,**
**Eat this body, drink this blood."**

**4 One in faith, in love united,**
**All one body, You the head,**
**When we meet, by You invited,**
**You are with us, as You said.**
**One with You and one another**
**In a unity sublime,**
**See in us Your sister, brother,**
**One in ev'ry place and time.**

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**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
**C** **Amen.**

## Christian Questions with their Answers

**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.**

**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 the 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.
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.**

## 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 24:3–11*

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual *Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a*

[Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, by means of his own blood,
**thus securing an eternal redemption.**
Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant,
**so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.**
He sent redemption to his people;
**he has commanded his covenant forever.**

## Epistle Reading *Hebrews 9:11–22*

A 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 Reading *Matthew 26:17–30*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## 629 What Is This Bread

**1** **What is this bread?**
**Christ's body risen from the dead:**
**This bread we break,**
**This life we take,**
**Was crushed to pay for our release.**
**O taste and see—the Lord is peace.**

**2** **What is this wine?**
**The blood of Jesus shed for mine;**
**The cup of grace**
**Brings His embrace**
**Of life and love until I sing!**
**O taste and see—the Lord is King.**

**3** **So who am I,**
**That I should live and He should die**
**Under the rod?**
**My God, my God,**
**Why have You not forsaken me?**
**O taste and see—the Lord is free.**

**4** **Yet is God here?**
**Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,**
**In mouth and soul**
**He makes us whole—**
**Christ, truly present in this meal.**
**O taste and see—the Lord is real.**

**5** **Is this for me?**
**I am forgiven and set free!**
**I do believe**
**That I receive**
**His very body and His blood.**
**O taste and see—the Lord is good.**

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## Sermon 'For Many Means for You'

## 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** …Lord, in your mercy:
**C** **Hear our prayer.**
**P** …through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**C** **Amen**

## Offering

## Preface *LSB 160*

**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 178*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:**
**Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.**
**Hosanna in the highest.**
**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**
**Hosanna in the highest.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**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.
At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.
As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

**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

**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

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
**C** **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei *LSB 180*

**C** **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,**
**grant us peace.**

## Distribution

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
**C** **Amen.**

## 544 O Love, How Deep *sts. 1–5*

**1** **O love, how deep, how broad, how high,**
**Beyond all thought and fantasy,**
**That God, the Son of God, should take**
**Our mortal form for mortals' sake!**

**2** **He sent no angel to our race,**
**Of higher or of lower place,**
**But wore the robe of human frame,**
**And to this world Himself He came.**

**3** **For us baptized, for us He bore**
**His holy fast and hungered sore;**
**For us temptation sharp He knew;**
**For us the tempter overthrew.**

**4** **For us He prayed; for us He taught;**
**For us His daily works He wrought,**
**By words and signs and actions thus**
**Still seeking not Himself but us.**

**5** **For us by wickedness betrayed,**
**For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,**
**He bore the shameful cross and death;**
**For us He gave His dying breath.**

Text: attr. Theodulus of Orléans, c.760s–c.821; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–85, alt.
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## 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.*

[1]My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
[2]O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.
[3]Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
[4]In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
[5]To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
[6]But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
[7]All 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!"
[9]Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.
[10]On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.
[11]Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.
[12]Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
[13]they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.
[14]I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
[15]my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.
[16]For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—
[17]I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
[18]they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
[19]But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
[20]Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!
[21]Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!
[22]I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
[23]You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
[24]For 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.
[25]From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
[26]The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!
[27]All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.
[28]For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.
[29]All 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.
[30]Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
[31]they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

*All leave the church in silence.*

**Acknowledgments**

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