



P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Psalm 51

*Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your 'steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out 'my transgressions.*

**Wash me thoroughly from 'my iniquity,
and cleanse me 'from my sin. R**

*For I know 'my transgressions,
and my sin is éver before me.*

**Against you, you alone, 'have I sinned,
and done what is evil 'in your sight,**

*so that you are justified 'in your sentence
and blameless when 'you pass judgment.*

**Indeed, I 'was born guilty,
a sinner from my 'mother's womb. R**

*You desire truth in the 'inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my 'secret heart.*

**Purge me with hyssop, and I 'shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whítter than snow.**

Let me hear 'joy and gladness;

let the bones that you have 'crushed rejoice.

**Hide your face 'from my sins,
and blot out all 'my iniquities. R**

*Create in me a clean 'heart, O God,
and put a new and right 'spirit within me.*

**Do not cast me away 'from your presence,
and do not take your holy 'spirit from me.**

*Restore to me the joy of 'your salvation,
and sustain in me a 'willing spirit.*

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will 'return to you. R**

*Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of 'my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of 'your deliverance.*

**O Lord, 'open my lips,
and my mouth will 'declare your praise.**

*For you have no 'delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would 'not be pleased.*

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a 'broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will 'not despise. R**

P: *Let us pray.
Almighty God, merciful Father,*

C: **I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and others. I am sorry for them, repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the faithfulness of your Son, Jesus the Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor unfaithful servant. Forgive my sins. Give me your Holy Spirit**

for the amendment of my failings. Keep me in your promise of life everlasting.

P: Let us make our confession, reflecting on God's Law and our Lutheran understanding of the expectations of God's commandments.

C: We are to fear, love and trust God above anything else.

P: Do not take the Lord's name in vain.

C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not use His name superstitiously, or use it to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, but call on him in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

P: Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.

C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not neglect His Word and the preaching of it but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

P: Honor your Mother and Father.

C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and others in right authority, but respect, obey, love, and serve them.

P: You shall not kill.

C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not harm our neighbor in any way but help them in all their physical needs.

P: You shall not commit adultery.

C: We are to fear and love God so that in matters of sex and sexuality our words and conduct are pure and honorable.

P: You shall not steal.

C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's property or money, or acquire them dishonestly or unjustly, but help them protect what they have.

P: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, or betray, slander, or defame them, rather we should speak well of them, and interpret their actions in the kindest way.

P: You shall not covet.

C: We are to fear and love God, and so we should not seek by craftiness to gain any of our neighbor's resources, nor are we to obtain them under pretext of legal right, but we should be of service to them and help to them so that they may keep what is theirs.

P: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
C: **Slow to anger and of great kindness.**

P: He will not always accuse us,
C: **nor will he keep his anger forever.**

P: He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
C: **nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

P: For as the heavens are high above the earth,
C: **so is His mercy on those who fear him.**

P: As far as the east is from the west,
C: **so far has he removed our sin from us.**

P: As a father cares for his children,
C: **so does the Lord care for those who fear him. Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Absolution

P: In obedience to the Command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins.
C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you**

P: Let us pray.

All: **Holy God, on this blessed night your Son gave His disciples the new commandment to love one another; as He loves each of them, in this way are they to love one another. Through your Holy Spirit write this commandment anew on our hearts that we will always be obedient of our Savior's word; loving as we are loved, and forgiving as we have been forgiven. In His name we pray. Amen.**

First Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

Yahweh, our God, said to Moses and Aaron while they were still enslaved in Egypt:

This month is to become the first month of all months for you – the first month of the year. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, one lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, that household

will get together with its neighbors until there are enough people to obtain a whole lamb. This lamb will be divided according to the number of people who are going to eat it. Your lamb must be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You must wait until the fourteenth day of this month, then the whole assembled congregation of Israel will slaughter their lambs together at twilight. They must take some of the blood from the lamb and put it on either side of the front doors of the houses in which they eat the lamb. And they must eat the lamb that same night. It must be roasted over a fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over a fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You must not let any of it remain until the morning. You must burn any left-overs.

And you must eat it with your travelling clothes on and your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. And you must eat it quickly. This meal will be called "The Passover of Yahweh, our God." For I, your God, will pass through the land of Egypt that night and I will kill every firstborn person and animal in the land of Egypt. On all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments for I am Yahweh, your God! The blood on the door posts of the houses you live in will be the sign for me to not bring a plague on this house. I will pass over you when I destroy the land of Egypt. This day must be a day of remembrance for you – a festival of celebration to Yahweh, your God. Every generation after you must observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

P: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Hymn *We Place Upon Your Table Lord* 467

*We place upon your table, Lord,
where you by grace have bid us dine,
**these tokens of our daily work,
the food of life, the bread and wine.***

*Within these simple things there lie
the height and depth of human life:
**our pain and tears, our thoughts and toils,
our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.***

*Accept them, Lord; they come from you;
we take them humbly from your hand;
put these your gifts to higher use:
the holy meal that you command.*

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking to entrap Jesus, and, then, having arrested him, kill him; for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

Jesus Anointed for Death by the Woman

Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, reclining, and a woman came with an alabaster jar of ointment of nard, pure and costly, and breaking the alabaster jar she poured the ointment on his head. But some were being indignant toward them, wondering, "Why was the ointment destroyed in this way? For they had the power to sell this ointment for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor." And they scolded her.

But Jesus said, "Release her; why do you trouble her? She has worked a good work for me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you will it you have the power to make them well; but you will not always have me. What she has done is this; she has looked ahead by anointing my body as a burial preparation. Amen I say to you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memorial of her."

Judas is Engaged

And Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to hand him over to them. And, having heard Judas' intentions, they rejoiced and promised to give him money. And he sought the right opportunity to hand him over.

Passover

And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

And he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says, 'Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a great room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

And the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

And evening having come, he came with the twelve.

And as they are reclining and eating Jesus says, "Amen I say to you, one of you will hand me over, one who is eating with me."

They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Not I?"

But he said to them, "One of the twelve. The one dipping with me into the bowl. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to the man through whom the Son of Man is handed over. It would have been good for him if he had never been born."

And while they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, blessing it he broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take, this is my body."

And having taken a cup, and having given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is pouring out for many. Amen I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Hymn

It Happened on that Fateful Night

It happened on that fateful night

When powers of earth and hell arose

Against the Son, our God's delight,

And friends betrayed him to his foes.

Before the bitter scene began,

He took the bread, and blest and broke.

What love through all his actions ran!

What wondrous words of love he spoke!

"My body, broken for your sin,

Receive and eat as living food."

He took the cup and blest the wine:

"Share this new testament, my blood."

"Do this, " he said, "till time shall end,

Remembering your dying friend;

Meet at my table and record

The full obedience of your Lord."

O Lord, your feast we celebrate;

We show your death; we sing your name

till you return, when we shall eat

The marriage supper of the Lamb.

Gospel

John 13

During supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet."

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

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to hand him over; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Rest assured, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. . . Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment; that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. In loving one another everyone will know that you are my disciples.

P: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, by the cross of Your Son You reconciled the world to Yourself and freed us to live in love and harmony. By His example He calls us to lives of caring and service. With thanks we recall the blessing of those who have been Christ's servants in our lives and we ask that your Spirit reveal faithful ways for us to respond in love as well. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Hymn

Jesu, Jesu Fill us with Your Love Hymn 708

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. Refrain

Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are near us and far away. Refrain

These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love,
all these are neighbors to us and you. Refrain

Loving puts us on our knees,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you. Refrain

Third Lesson

Mark 14

Jesus is Handed Over

And having sung praises they went out to the Mount of Olives.

And Jesus said to them that they will all be scandalized, because it is written,

*'I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.'* [Zechariah 13:7]

But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

But Peter said to him, "Everyone else may become scandalized, but not I."

And Jesus said to him, "Amen I say to you, today, this night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

But Peter said vehemently, "If it is necessary I die with you, I will not deny you."

But likewise all of them said the same.

And they came into a place named Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here until I may pray."

And taking along with him Peter and James and John, he began to be greatly amazed and agitated.

And he said to them, "My soul is very sad, even to death; remain here, and keep watch."

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were empowered, the hour might pass from him.

And he said, "Abba, Father, all powerful are you, remove this cup from me; but not what I will, but what you will."

And he came and found them sleeping; and he says to Peter, "Simon, you are sleeping. You do not have the strength to keep watch for one hour. Keep watch and pray that you may not come into temptation. On the one hand the spirit is willing, *on the other* the flesh is weak." And again departing he prayed, saying the same words.

And again, having come, he found them sleeping, for their eyes were being weighed down; and they did not know what to answer him.

He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is handed over into the hands of the sinful. Get up, let us be going. Behold, the handing over of me is near."

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.

But the one handing him over had given them a signal saying, "The one I may kiss, it is him; grab him and lead him away securely."

And having come, immediately going to him he said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him.

And they laid their hands on *Jesus* and grasped him.

But one of those standing near, having drawn his sword, struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

And *Jesus* responded saying to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Throughout the day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not grab me - but this is so that scriptures be fulfilled."

And leaving him all of the *disciples* fled.

And a certain young man was following *Jesus*, wearing nothing but a burial cloth, and *the cohort* grab him, but, having left the burial cloth, *the follower* fled away naked.

The Stripping of the Altar

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Why are you so far from helping me,
from the words of my groaning?**

*O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.*

*Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.*

In you our ancestors trusted;

they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not a man;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

"Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver--
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

Many bulls encircle me,
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

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;
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me.
My hands and feet have shriveled;
I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

But you, O Lord, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!

Deliver my soul from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog!

Save me from the mouth of the lion!

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
**I will tell of your name to my brothers and kindred
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**

You who fear the Lord, praise him!
**All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

*For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;*
**he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live forever!
**All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.**

*For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.*

*To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.*

Posterity will serve him;
**future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.**

P: *Be not far away O Lord.*

C: **For trouble is near and there is none to help.**

P: *Be not far away O Lord.*

C: **You are my strength; hasten to help me.**

Please leave in silence

The liturgy does not end tonight but continues through Easter Vigil