

"Where the Many Become One"
March 28, 2024
Maundy Thursday

Choir....."Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Invocation

M: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

It was on the first Maundy Thursday that our dear Savior instituted the Sacrament of the Altar. May the Holy Spirit guide us this evening as we center our thoughts on this holy sacrament.

Hymn and Catechism

M: The following readings are from our catechism's explanations of the Sacrament of the Altar. Our hymn verses are to the tune of "The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord." (Christian Worship hymnbook #135.)

*Christ 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.*

M: The Nature of the Sacrament of the Altar. What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

C: The Sacrament of the Altar is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself, for us Christians to eat and to drink.

*His Word proclaims and we believe that in this supper we receive
His very body, as He said, His very blood for sinners shed.*

M: The Benefit of the Sacrament of the Altar. What benefit do we receive from such eating and drinking?

C: The benefit which we receive from such eating and drinking is shown us by these words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins," namely, that forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given to us in the Sacrament through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

*Oh, blest is each believing guest who in this promise finds his rest,
For Jesus will in love abide with those who do in Him confide.*

M: The Power of the Sacrament of the Altar. How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

C: It is not the eating and drinking that does this, but the words here written: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." These words, along with the eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: the forgiveness of sins.

*The guest that comes with true intent to turn to God and to repent,
To live for Christ, to die to sin, will thus a holy life begin.*

*Help us sincerely to believe that we may worthily receive
Your supper and in You find rest. Amen! They who believe are blest!*

M: The Proper Reception of the Sacrament of the Altar. Who then receives this Sacrament worthily?

C: While fasting and bodily preparations are fine outward training, whoever has faith in these words, "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins," is truly worthy and well prepared. But whoever does not believe these words, or doubts them, is unworthy and unprepared because the words "for you" require only believing hearts.

Explanation of Individual Absolution

It is a tradition at Holy Cross to receive individual absolution or individual forgiveness of sin twice each year (New Year's Eve & Maundy Thursday). At the front the pastor will say, "By the authority of God I declare to you the gracious forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Everyone (members, guests, men, women and children) is invited to come forward.

Confession of Sins and Absolution

M: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your one and only Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit increase in us a true knowledge of You and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, so that, by Your grace we may come to everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

M: I ask each of you in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

C: I do.

M: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in His name?

C: I do.

M: Upon this your confession, come forward to the altar of the Lord and receive the declaration of the forgiveness of all your sins.

Adult Handbells....."O Sacred Head"

Sermon Hymn #136....." 'Twas on that Dark, that Doleful Night" *to the tune of (#376) "Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness"*

1 'Twas on that dark, that doleful night when pow'rs of earth and hell arose
Against the Son, our God's delight, and friends betrayed Him to His foes.

2 Before the mournful scene began, He took the bread and blessed and broke.
What love through all His actions ran! What wondrous words of grace He spoke!

3 "This is my body, slain for sin; receive and eat the living food."
Then took the cup and blessed the wine: "'Tis the new cov'nant in My blood."

4 "Do this," He said, "till time shall end, in mem'ry of your dying friend;
Meet at my table and record the love of your departed Lord."

5 Jesus, Your feast we celebrate; we show Your death; we sing Your name
Till you return and we shall eat the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Sermon.....Pastor Mark Bartels....."Where the Many Become One"

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Response to the Word #310 (vs 1-3)....."I Come, O Savior, to Your Table"

- 1 I come, O Savior, to your table, For weak and weary is my soul;
O Jesus, you alone are able To satisfy and make me whole.
Lord, may your body and your blood Be for my soul the highest good!

- 2 Oh, grant that I in manner worthy May now trust solely in your Word,
And, conscious of the sins before me, Look only unto you, O Lord.
Lord, may your body and your blood Be for my soul the highest good!

- 3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet you your lamb will banish never, Nor will your faithfulness depart.
Lord, may your body and your blood Be for my soul the highest good!

Offering

The 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 Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

Distribution & Hymn #309....."Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

- 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 that his saints in this world rules and shields
To all believers life eternal yields,
With heav'nly bread makes them that hunger whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.

- 3 Come forward, then, with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
Before your altar, Lord, your servants bow;
In this your feast of love be with us now.

The Blessing and Closing Prayer

C: We thank You, Father, that You have given us Jesus, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. We thank You, Lord Jesus, that You have carried in Your sacred body all our sins, and by Your blood have blotted out all our misdeeds. We thank You, Holy Spirit, that You have created in our hearts true faith, so that we trust in nothing for our salvation except Christ and Him crucified. O God, grant us grace to firmly and boldly believe that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. So enlighten us by Your Holy Spirit that we may never forsake Jesus. We wait for the day when we will see Him face to face in heaven. Amen.

Closing Hymn #316....."O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee"

1 O Jesus, blessed Lord, to thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me thy body and thy blood.

2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart -
How blest am I! How good thou art!

Good Friday Worship (with Holy Communion) – 1:30 PM

Easter Worship – 8:30AM & 10:30AM

Attendance

If you attended online services at Holy Cross, please send an email to frontoffice@holycrossmadison.org, and in the subject line write "Attended" and after that the number of people who watched from your home. So if three of you watch the service on Sunday, your subject line would say, "Attended 3". Please don't write anything in the text of the email, since our secretary, Anna Poellet, will not be responding to emails that say "Attended" in the subject line. Thanks.