

HOLY THURSDAY

March 20, 2008

7:00 p.m.

A Special Message

Passover is the oldest and most important religious festival in Judaism, commemorating God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt. The term Passover refers to the 10th and final plague God brought upon the Egyptians to persuade Pharaoh to let the people go, the death of all the firstborn of Egypt. In obedience to God's instructions, those who believed placed the blood of a lamb on the door posts of their houses, so that the angel of death would "pass over" those homes. That same evening the people of Israel gathered in their homes for a hastily prepared meal, their last in Egypt. In remembrance of this event God instructed His people to celebrate each year the Passover meal, celebrating God's act of gracious deliverance.

It is in the context of the Passover meal our Lord instituted his Supper. In Christ, God's new and greatest work of deliverance occurs. Through Christ, the "new Moses", mankind is delivered from a far greater bondage – the bondage to "sin, death and the power of the devil." When one comes by faith to wear the "blood of the Lamb" upon the lintel of their heart, the angel of eternal death shall "passover" them.

Prelude

Dottie Kistler

Welcome

Introduction To Tonight's Service

Spiritual Preparation

Order of Service

- The Narrative of the Lord's Supper -
St. Matthew 26:17-29

* Invitation To Communion

Pastor: The Holy Sacrament of our Lord's Supper is provided for our partaking.

Cong.: **We come to our Lord's Table not because we are worthy, but because we are unworthy.**

Pastor: Each believer receives and together we all celebrate our Lord's redeeming forgiveness.

Cong.: **We reverently rejoice in our deliverance from sin by the body and blood of the Lamb of God.**

Anthem

"Because He Broke the Bread"

Salem Sr. Choir

Table Conversations

"Breaking Bread Together"

Pastors Schmidt/Cox

THE MEAL

* Hymn

"Now We Join in Celebration"

LBW #203

Cong.: Lord, as round this feast we gather, Fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing Are for us the sure possessing
Of your loving deed on Calv'ry, Of your living self, our vict'ry,
Pledge of your unfailing presence, Foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.

**Lord, we share in this communion As one fam'ly of God's children,
Reconciled through you, our brother, One in you with God our Father.
Give us grace to live for others, Serving all, both friends and strangers,
Seeking justice, love, and mercy Till you come in final glory.**

* Eucharistic Prayer

#709 *"With One Voice"*

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Cong.: Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

Pastor: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Cong.: Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

* Lord's Prayer

sung by Salem Sr. Choir

THE DISTRIBUTION
Common Cup or Individual Cup

(If you desire to **commune by common cup**, please partake of the bread and extend your hands to receive the cup. After drinking from it, return to Pastor.

If you desire to **commune by individual cup**, please partake of the bread – then as the communion tray is presented before you, select a glass. Red=wine. White=grape juice.)

Musical Interlude

(Removal of sacramental vessels)

Offering

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Kneel/Sit

Devotional Reading
Psalm 22
Roger Kjosa

When lights are turned on in the Narthex,
please leave the church in silence.