took the Passover meal and turned it into the Lord's Supper, as many teach. The Passover meal had many parts and pieces, one of which is that it was eaten standing. Verse 20 states they were reclining. (John tells us the Priest who took Jesus to Pilate were afraid of defiling themselves for the Passover (John 18:28. John shows us that Jesus was on the cross at the same moment that the lambs were being slaughtered, but there isn't enough room to fully explore this topic here.) Eating is a common ordinary thing that we do. As with Baptism, (which uses simple water) Jesus took simple food and by His participation changed it for a sacramental purpose. He took the "elements" of bread and wine and declared them to be His Body and Blood for our salvation. Then, Jesus as our Priest took His flesh, (as the actual Passover Lamb,) and His Blood and sacrificed it on the cross.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

℗ Heavenly Father, Almighty God, in Your unspeakable mercy You provided divine knowledge and understanding for a needy world through Jesus Christ. We thank and praise You for Your goodness and Loving kindness in sending Your Son Who became for us the bread from Heaven.

We thank You that You have forgiven the sin of Your people and covered our guilt through the atonement made by Christ our Lord at Calvary. We thank You for His patience and His suffering, His life and Love, His ministry and mercy. We praise You that He, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, was delivered for our offenses; that through His innocent sufferings and death He tasted death for all, that all people everywhere may be reconciled to You.

Help us O God, to serve You by word and life more faithfully each day. Help us resist and overcome all temptation to do evil, and to receive a new heart and a new spirit. Make us mindful of all that Jesus did for us and show us the way to love Him all the more. Forgive our sins, and lead us safely through the problems that we face each day. Give us stronger faith, strengthen us to cheerfully bear our cross, and to meet victoriously all our trials.

Grant Your favor to all the members and friends of our church. Enter our homes and lead Your Holy Spirit to fill every heart with a secure knowledge of Your Love. Bless the sick, the forsaken, the suffering, the anxious, and the perplexed. Give us all that victory in Christ that overcomes Satan, the world, and our own sinful flesh.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**

As we proclaim the Lord's Passion and death in the Communion of His Table, uniting our hearts and spirits in His faith and fellowship, grant us the full power of Your presence, the confidence of Your mercy and the expectation of Heaven. In Jesus we proclaim Your glory and dominion forever and ever.

© **Amen.**

HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY

Chant Tone

III f#: Phrygian

Introit

Gracious is the Lord, and — righteous;*
   Our God is | merciful.

I love the Lord, because | He has heard*
   my voice and my pleas for — mercy.
Because He inclined His | ear to me,*
   therefore I will call on Him as long
   | as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid | hold on me;*
   I suffered distress and — anguish.
Then I called on the name | of the Lord:*
   "O Lord, I pray, deliv | er my soul!"

Gracious is the Lord, and — righteous;*
   Our God is | merciful.

(Antiphon, Psalm 116:5; Psalm 116:1-4)

Collect of the Day

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.

Gradual

[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 in | heritance.
He sent redemption to His — people;*
   He has commanded His covenant for — ever.

(Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a)

Verse

Having loved His own who were | in the world,*
   He loved them | to the end.

(John 13:1b)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord God, heavenly Father, Author of the everlasting covenant and Giver of the cup of salvation, we Your children gather in Your courts to offer our sacrifice of thanksgiving. For fulfilling Your promise to establish a new covenant through the blood of Your Son Jesus Christ, we give You humble and hearty thanks. Through the veil of His flesh we enter the Holy of Holies of Your presence without fear or trembling. Help us live our lives as sacrifices of thanksgiving to Him Who first Loved us. May our love for Him express itself in love and service to one another. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE HISTORIC GOSPEL LESSON FOR "MAUNDY THURSDAY" IS JOHN 13:1-15, 34-35. This includes the mandate (command) from Jesus, (verse 34) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." We no longer use those verses so we have essentially changed this to "Holy Thursday." Today our lessons concentrate on the Lord's Supper. Luther in the Small Catechism has the best most concise statement on, "The Sacrament of the Altar: How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.' These words along with the bodily eating and drinking are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: 'forgiveness of sins.' "

THEME OF THE DAY:
　The Lord's Supper

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 116:5) Psalm 116:1-4
Psalm 116 was written by David as a general review of the many acts of grace (God's undeserved Love) that had been showered down on us.

COLLECT
The theme for this day is, "The Lord's Supper." We ask in our prayer that we would be allowed to make full use of the sacrament. We participate in the death of Jesus because having died with Him we will live with Him.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Exodus 24:3-11
In this text Moses ascended Mount Sinai to receive the covenant message from God for the people. Moses received the tables which were inscribed by the finger of God. The people did not trust the leadership of Moses. They broke the first commandment before he descended the Mountain. The people really didn't trust the will of God and Moses was simply God's representative. The life of Moses is a picture of the life of Christ. However, Jesus fulfilled those the things in which Moses failed. Jesus made perfect the things that Moses did wrong.

GRADUAL—Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a
Hebrews chapter 9 compares anything good in the Old Testament with the greater good of the Gospel of the New Testament. Jesus is the mediator of the New and much better covenant, for His is a contract of life with God. Psalm 111 is a Hallelujah Psalm. David, intending this for worship.

EPISTLE LESSON—Hebrews 9:11-22
Chapter 9 is so theological that it is difficult to explain in only a few words. The High Priest had to offer a blood sacrifice to be worthy to enter the holiest place in the Temple. Jesus in His office as High Priest (the order of Melchizedek) was without sin. Rather than offering a sheep as the sacrifice (which was only a symbol) Jesus offered His flesh and blood as the perfect sacrifice. The promise of the Old Covenant involved was made in the blood of sheep. The promise of the New Covenant (our true forgiveness of sins is made in the blood of Jesus.

VERSE—John 13:1b
This verse is from the historical Gospel Lesson and matches the theme of the Mandate of Love. We use it to remind ourselves that Jesus loved us enough to die for us.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 26:17-30
The institution of The Lord's Supper is truly a wonder. It is connected to the Passover, as can be seen from verse 17, but it doesn't mean that Jesus