

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE 4, 2026

THE GOOD NEWS OF A GOD WHO PASSES OVER US IN MERCY

God passes over us in mercy, for Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed, and we are marked by the blood of the Lamb. saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!... And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever!” (Rev. 5:12-13).

May the Lord bless our worship tonight

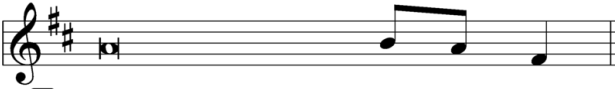


VESPERS

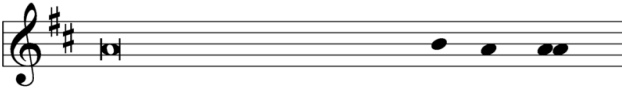
As the minister approaches the altar the congregation stands



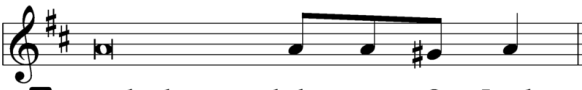
P O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



P Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.

PSALM

Psalm 32

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C **For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

P I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I shall confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

C **I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I shall confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

- P** Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
- C** **You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**
- P** I shall instruct you and teach you in the Way you should go; I shall counsel you with My eye upon you.
- C** Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.
- P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
- C** **Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Sit

HYMN 431

FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1-14

P The First Reading is from Exodus, the twelfth chapter.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. ¹²For I shall pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I shall strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I shall execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I shall pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

P The Second Reading is from 1 Corinthians, the fifth chapter.

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST DRAWN FROM THE FOUR GOSPELS

Those who had arrested Jesus brought Him to the high priest's house, where the scribes and elders were assembled. Peter followed Him afar off, and so did another disciple. That disciple was known to the high priest and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So that other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper and brought Peter in. He went in and sat with the servants to see the end. He was warming himself at the fire they had kindled in the middle of the courtyard.

Meanwhile, the chief priests and the whole council were seeking evidence that might make the case for a death sentence, but they could not find any. Many bore false witness against Him, but their statements did not agree. Two stepped forward and said, "We heard Him say, 'I shall destroy this temple made with hands and after three days I shall build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their evidence did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up, moved to the centre, and put this question to Jesus, "Do you have no answer? What is this evidence they have given against You?" But He was silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest put a question to Him and said, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

Jesus said, "I am. You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of God's power and coming with the clouds of heaven."

The high priest tore his garments and said, "Do we still need any witnesses? You have heard this blasphemy. What is your opinion?" They all agreed that He was deserving of death.

Then some of them began to spit on Him; they blindfolded Him, struck Him, and said to Him, "Prophecy to us, O Christ, who is it that struck You?" The guards beat Him as they took Him away.

Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maidservants of the high priest came and saw Peter warming himself. She looked at him closely as he sat in the light of the fire, and said, "You also were along with the man from Nazareth, that Jesus."

Peter denied it and said, "I do not know what you mean." He went out to the forecourt.

Another maidservant saw him there and said to those who were standing around, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Peter denied it again with an oath, “I do not know the Man.”

A little later those standing around said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them. You are a Galilean. Your accent gives you away.”

Peter started calling down curses on himself and swore, “I do not know the Man.”

And immediately while he was still speaking, the cock crowed a second time, and the Lord turned and looked on Peter. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” Peter broke down, and went out, and wept bitterly.

As soon as it was morning the chief priests with the elders and the scribes held the court session with all the Sanhedrin. Then they bound Him, led Him away, and turned Him over to Pilate. Then Judas, who had betrayed Him, when he saw that he was condemned, was sorry and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood.”

They said, “What is that to us? That is your affair.” Judas threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed. He went and hanged himself.

The chief priests took the silver pieces and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.” They took counsel and bought with them the potter’s field to bury strangers in. That is why to this day that field has been called “the field of blood.”

In this way was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him on whom a price had been set by the children of Israel, and gave them for the potter’s field.”

After the Narrative:

P Here ends the reading.

Stand

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

CANTICLE

LSB 231



Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

The Word That Spoke in Darkness

Lisa M. Clark

Mark Knickelbein



- 1 The Word that spoke in dark-ness And prom-ised com-ing light
- 2 The Sav-ior came to con-quer And meet His mis-sion's aim:
- 3 The Christ pro-claimed His vic-t'ry With ev-ry act of grace:
- 4 The Prince of Peace con-tin-ued With each new task com-plete



Kept guid-ing through the a - ges Un - til the time was right
 Up - end - ing Sa - tan's ter - ror, Cre - a - tion to re - claim
 The out - cast shown com - pas - sion And God's own ho - ly face
 At cross and tomb and glo - ry Up - on His roy - al seat,



To take on flesh and fol - low The Fa-ther's good com - mand
 By walk-ing on the wa - ters So we by faith may stand
 As Jes - sus looked with fa - vor On all from ev - ry land
 De - liv - er - ance ac - com-plished Ex - act - ly as He planned;



And dwell a-mong His peo - ple, The king - dom now at hand.
 With trust in Him whose res - cue Is of - fered by His hand.
 Who need-ed life and heal - ing From His al-might - y hand.
 Our King will raise in wel - come His pierced and ris - en hand.

SERMON The Good News of a God who Passes over us in Mercy

Exodus 12:1-14

Dear friends in Christ,

The Apostle Paul reminds us that “*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*” (2 Tim. 3:16).

“*All Scripture is breathed out by God.*” This makes the Scriptures unique. We call them divinely inspired. Peter also wrote about this: “*No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*” (2 Peter 1:20-21). God’s Spirit brought about these writings. They were willed by God; God determined their content; the Spirit moved the writers to write in the way they did. *The Scriptures truly are the very Word of God.*

There are, however, certain chapters of the Bible that are particularly *outstanding*. Genesis chapter 3, which brings us the story of the fall into sin and the first promise of a Saviour, is one of these. Leviticus chapter 16, which presents the regulations for Israel’s great Day of Atonement, is another. The chapter from which our text comes tonight, Exodus 12, is especially noteworthy because it presents one of the most important Old Testament types of the Saviour Jesus Christ. A type is a sign or an event that represents something still to come. We look to the Scriptures to identify these types. Exodus 12 brings us God’s institution of the Passover festival. The institution of Passover took place at the Lord’s command and established Israel as a nation,¹ and was to be celebrated by the Israelites every year to remind them of their special place as God’s chosen people. The Passover lamb, on which this feast was centred, is a type, or picture, of Christ, “*the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29).

The LORD gave directions for preparing the Passover festival and began by stating when it was to be held: “**It shall be the first month of the year for you.**” The Hebrew name for this month was “Abib,” or “earmonth,” because the grain

¹ Isaiah 43:15

was then in the ear.² It is the month of April.

The LORD told Moses and Aaron to say to the Israelites, **“on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household.”** The Passover lamb was to be **“without blemish, a male a year old...”** taken **“from the sheep or from the goats.”**

Having found a lamb, the man was to take it home and keep it **“until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.”** Then, they were to **“take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses.”** (The lintel is the top doorframe.) Then, in the house, the lamb was to be **“roasted on the fire”** and eaten with **“unleavened bread and bitter herbs.”** This was done in the homes of all the Israelites.

The LORD told them to be ready to leave Egypt, because He was going to **“pass through the land of Egypt that night, and... strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.”**

In judgment, the LORD did strike down the firstborn of Egypt, and in mercy, He did pass over the homes of His people. Wherever the blood of the lamb was seen, no harm came.

The next day, Pharaoh sent word that the Israelites were, at last, free to leave Egypt. Through nine previous plagues, in the hardness of his heart, he had refused to let them go, but now their time of slavery has ended. They are free at last.

The centuries rolled on, and year after year, on the anniversary of the original Passover, the people of Israel observed a weeklong feast that included the sacrifice of Passover lambs and the eating of Passover meals.

This all happened exactly as the Lord had said it would. Moving forward nearly fifteen hundred Passover celebrations: In about the year AD 33, on the

² Exodus 13:4

Sunday of the week of Passover, a Man entered Jerusalem, riding humbly on a donkey. *He has come to present Himself as the true Passover Lamb.*

Over the next four days, this Man, Jesus of Nazareth, is repeatedly questioned, challenged, and tested. Each time, He proves faithful and guiltless. He shows Himself to be unblemished.

That Thursday, He celebrates the Passover with His disciples. Later that same night, He is taken captive, and the next day, on a hill outside Jerusalem, Jesus offers Himself up on a cross as our Passover sacrifice.

Like the earlier Passover lambs, not one of this perfect Lamb's bones is broken (John 19:31-36).

Unlike the first Passover, only *one* firstborn Son dies this time—the Lamb Himself, the firstborn Son of Mary and the only-begotten Son of God.

There is weeping over the death of this Son. But because of His self-giving sacrifice for us, all who are marked with His saving blood are untouched by God's righteous judgment. For our countless sins of thought, word, and deed—for the evil we have done and the good we have left undone—we justly deserve God's present and eternal punishment. But instead, just as God passed over the Israelite homes marked with the blood of a Passover lamb, God passes over us in mercy, "*for Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed*" (1 Cor. 5:7), and we are marked by the blood of the Lamb.

He is the true, final, perfect Passover Lamb—of whom all other sacrificial lambs have been merely a shadow. By His blood, we are saved, for we have been redeemed once and for all "*with the precious blood of Christ, . . . a lamb without blemish or spot*" (1 Pet. 1:19).

In baptism, we have been washed clean in the blood of this holy Lamb of God (Rev 7:14b). By the Gospel, His cleansing blood purifies us of all sin (1 Jn 1:7-9), and in the Lord's Supper, a new and better Passover meal, we receive forgiveness, life, and salvation through His body given for us and His blood poured out for us (1 Cor. 11:23-25).

Marked by the saving blood of the Lamb, we are forgiven and set free from sin, free from the fear of death, and free to live as God's redeemed people.

And it all happened *just as God said it would*, as He previewed in the Passover, He accomplished on the cross.

For all of this, may Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of

the world, be praised forevermore. For as John heard sung in heaven and recorded for us in the fifth chapter of Revelation, “*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing! . . . To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever*” (Rev 5:12-13). Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

HYMN 339

Stand

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

LSB 233



P The Lord be with you.



C And with your spir - it.

P Let us pray.

C Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 234



P Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB 234



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

Sit

HYMN 573