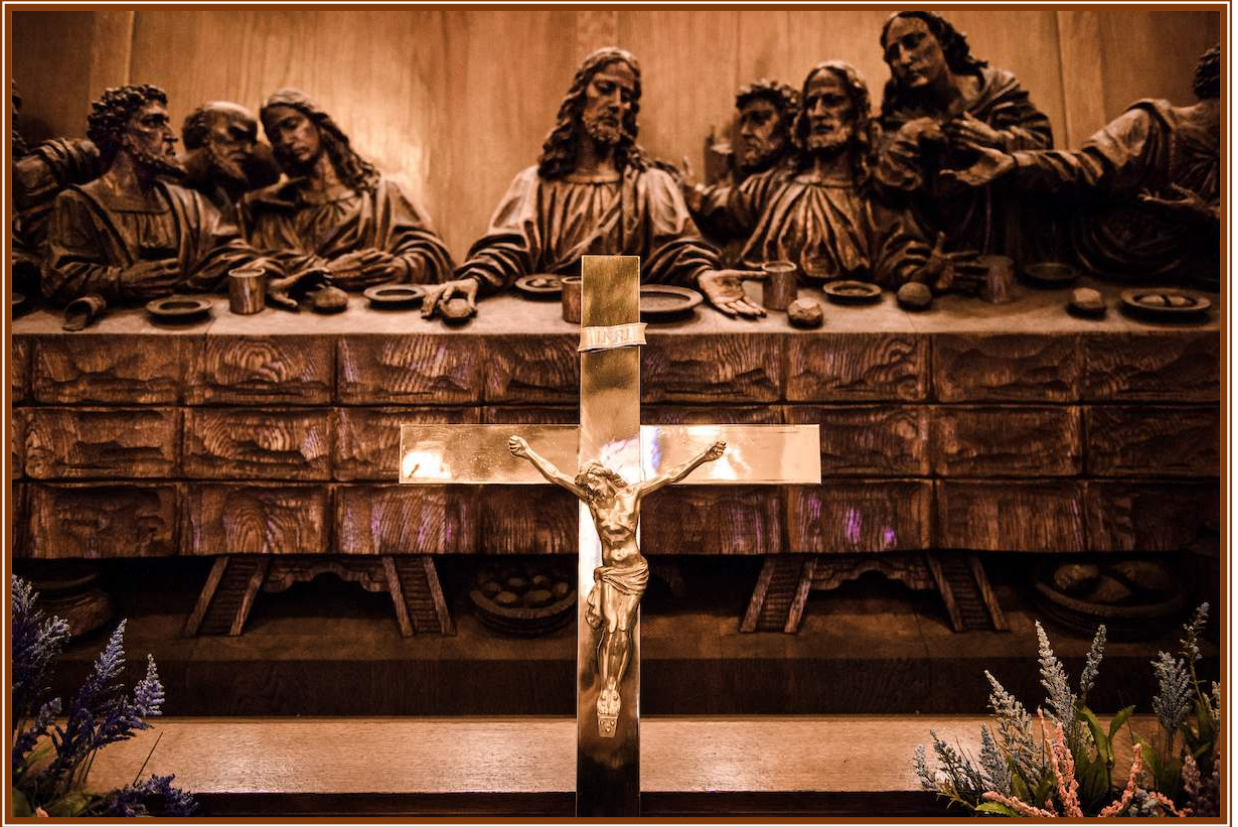


SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

Maundy Thursday Divine Service



Our Savior Lutheran Church

Westminster, Massachusetts

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✘ GRACE ALONE ✘ FAITH ALONE

1 Hager Park Road
(Junction 140, 2, and 2A)
Westminster, MA 01473

Our Savior Lutheran Church

March 28, AD 2024

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Serving in Worship Today

Preacher & Celebrant	Pastor Peter Gregory
Liturgist (7:00 pm)	Tim Terhune
Acolytes (7:00 pm)	George Newman Siemeon Gregory
Organist (12:00 noon)	Judy Greenlees
(7:00 pm)	Anne Bennet

Holy Communion

We welcome to the Lord's Table members of Our Savior and members of sister congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Pastor Gregory would be very glad to instruct you so that you can confess Jesus Christ with us and receive His holy body and blood for forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Prayers for Holy Communion

Before communing: Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament: Almighty God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Cover Illustration

The altar crucifix and wood sculptures at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Baltimore.

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Preparation for Holy Communion

What is the Sacrament of the Altar? It 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.

Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

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."

Who receives this sacrament worthily? Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

From Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org

> *The opening liturgy through the Service of the Word is spoken.* <

THE INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE EXHORTATION

Psalms 43:4; 124:8

*I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy.*

*Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*

> *Please be seated.* <

THE CONFESSIONAL ADDRESS

During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other. Since we intend to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night when He instituted this blessed meal for our salvation, it is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently examining ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. This holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are unable to deliver ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit, He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, He took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you." It is as if He said, "I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat."

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Again, it is as if He said, "I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink."

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life. We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our deepest thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, as He commanded, love one another as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup.

For just as the one cup is filled with wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, though many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

*May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us. **Amen.***

> Please stand. <

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

All-Powerful God, merciful Father, I, a poor, pitiful sinner, confess to You all my sins and unrighteousness. By them I have continually offended You and fairly deserved Your punishment, both now and eternally. But from my heart I am sorry for them, and I sincerely repent of them, and I pray You, in Your limitless mercy for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

Yes.

Let it be done for you as you believe.

THE ABSOLUTION

*In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

THE BLESSING

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace. **Amen.***

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have given 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. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

from the Old Testament: Exodus 24:3–11

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 116:12–19; antiphon: v. 17

I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,

I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.

O LORD, I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant.

You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people,

in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

from the Letters: 1 Corinthians 10:16–17

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- 1 Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.
- 2 But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.
- 3 My faith would lay its hand
On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.
- 4 My soul looks back to see
The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursèd tree;
I know my guilt was there.
- 5 Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing His bleeding love.

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from the Holy Gospels: Mark 14:12–26

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

THE NICENE CREED

Having heard the Word, what do you believe?

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father, and He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

- 1 **Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior,
Turned away God's wrath forever;
By His bitter grief and woe
He saved us from the evil foe.**
- 2 **As His pledge of love undying,
He, this precious food supplying,
Gives His body with the bread,
And with the wine the blood He shed.**
- 3 **Jesus here Himself is sharing;
Heed then how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe,
His judgment then you shall receive.**
- 4 **Praise the Father, who from heaven
To His own this food has given,
Who, to mend what we have done,
Gave into death His only Son.**

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The Sermon

HYMN OF RESPONSE – TUNE: TLH 311/LSB 627 – TEXT: LSB 627, STS. 7–10

- 5 **Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,
And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician's help or skill.**
- 6 **"For what purpose was My dying
If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food
If you yourself were pure and good?"**
- 7 **If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest,
Be at His banquet truly blest.**
- 8 **Let this food your faith so nourish
That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you
How much God's wondrous love can do.**

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The Presentation of the Offering

I will offer the thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

O LORD, my strength, I love You.

The Prayer of the Church

> *The liturgy for the Service of the Sacrament is sung.* <

THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

It is good and right that we do.

THE PROPER PREFACE

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

**Holy, holy, holy LORD God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

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

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

THE PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI

John 1:29

**O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
grant us Your peace. Amen.**

Holy Communion

> All who receive Holy Communion here must first be instructed. Our pastor will be very glad to instruct you. Please contact the office for an appointment. Those who have not been instructed may come forward with their arms crossed to receive a blessing.

During the distribution when hymns are not being sung, silently pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ present and absent, for those in need, for your own family and friends, and for yourselves. <

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor,
There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded
This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
- 2 Now in faith I humbly ponder
Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless
Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
Pledge and seal of my salvation!
- 3 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
Love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You
And, so favored, never leave You.
- 4 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness
And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- 5 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited,
Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

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> *The second distribution hymn will be sung, if needed.* <

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.
- 2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.
- 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.
- 4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.

**5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven's high and holy feast.**

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THE DISMISSAL

John 6:54–57; 1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 19:9

Hear the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ: "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life and I will raise him up on the Last Day. For My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent Me and I live because of Him, so whoever feeds on Me will live because of Me." Amen.

*As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death
until He comes.*

*He will remember His holy covenant
until He comes.*

*I heard a loud voice from heaven crying,
"Blessed are those who are called to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb!"*

The 12:00 noon service continues below. The 7:00 pm service continues on the next page.

THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN – TUNE: LSB 811 – TLH 385, ST. 4

**O depths of love, to me revealing the sea where my sins disappear!
In Christ, my wounds find perfect healing, there is no condemnation here.
For Jesus' blood through earth and skies forever, "Mercy! Mercy!" cries.**

THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT

Let us pray. We thank You, All-Powerful God, for refreshing us with this healing gift, and we pray: Father of mercy, by this Holy Food make us strong in faith toward You, and in deep love for each other, that through us other beloved sinners may kneel to You and receive with us grace and life in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.</p> <p>2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.</p> | <p>3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.</p> <p>4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.</p> |
|---|---|

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The 12:00 noon service is ended. The 7:00 pm service continues below.

THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT

Let us pray. Christ Jesus, Lord and Savior of mankind, we praise You, for on this night You washed the feet of sinners and made Yourself the servant of all. Now having washed, served, and joined Yourself to us tonight, by Your Holy Spirit we pray that You would lead us to cling to You in true faith, faithfully serve our neighbors with works of love, and abide under the shelter of Your righteousness forever; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Stripping of the Altar

> Note: Jesus underwent great humiliation during His trial when His clothing was stripped from Him (Matthew 27:28). As the prophet Isaiah writes, "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3). The stripping of the altar depicts this for us. The service ends in silence. There is no benediction since this service continues with Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, both at 7:00 pm. <

PSALM 22

*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?
Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My groaning?
O My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.
Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In You our fathers trusted; they trusted, and You delivered them.
To You they cried and were rescued; in You they trusted and were not put to shame.*

*But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
All who see Me mock Me; they make mouths at Me; they wag their heads;
“He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!”
Yet You are He who took Me from the womb; You made Me trust You at My mother’s breasts.
On You was I cast from My birth, and from My mother’s womb You have been My God.
Be not far from Me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.
Many bulls encompass 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 strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks to my jaws; You lay Me in the dust of death.
For dogs encompass Me; a company of evildoers encircles Me;
they have pierced My hands and feet—I can count all My bones—they stare and gloat over Me;
they divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.
But You, O LORD, do not be far off! O You My help, come quickly to My aid!
Deliver My soul from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog!
Save Me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild oxen!
I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You:
You who fear the LORD, praise Him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel!
For He has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,
and He has not hidden His face from Him, but has heard, when He cried to Him.
From You comes my praise in the great congregation; My vows I will perform before those who fear Him.
The afflicted 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 You.
For kingship belongs to the LORD, and He rules over the nations.
All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.
Posterity shall serve Him; it shall be told of the LORD to the coming generation;
they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn, that He has done it.*

**Given and shed for you
for the forgiveness of sins**