



MAUNDY THURSDAY

online worship service



APRIL 9, 2020

St. Matthew's Danube, St. Matthew Flora Twp, St. John's Renville (WELS)

Throughout the years Maundy Thursday has been a night that we have been able to celebrate the institution of the Lord's Supper, consider its wonderful significance, and receive its blessings as we partake in this special meal that the Lord Jesus gave to his church. Tonight, sadly, we must forego a celebration of the Lord's Supper. Current global concerns will keep us from gathering as a congregation at the Lord's Table this evening. While Christians surely desire to be strengthened and comforted by the Lord's Supper, we also recognize that there are times when the normal celebration of Communion is not possible (Christians serving in a war zone, for believers who are home-bound because of sickness or infirmity, etc.). While we are saddened by this circumstance for many reasons, we take comfort in knowing that we have the means of grace in two forms—Word and Sacrament. For that reason, we give thanks for the power of his Word and with eager anticipation we look forward to the day when the current crisis has abated, and we can again gather in the Lord's house and at his Table. May this time away instill in us an even greater appreciation for these blessings when we again gather for public worship.

M: *In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.*

INSTRUCTION FOR THE END OF LENT

M: In this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we long to eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. The Lord's Supper is a special gift for together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is a foretaste of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

We praise God for that gift that he gives to His Church and wait with eager anticipation to enjoy it again.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: It was for our sins that Jesus willingly shed his body and blood.

Let us consider the price he paid for our sins and for the sins of the whole world.

Silence for meditation

M: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. I have pursued my ways instead of your ways, in what I have done and left undone. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

M: O Lord, forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us.
C: **Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

M: Almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake God forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Song of Praise: "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" 311 v 1-2 (music on final page)

**1] Soul, adorn yourself with gladness; Leave behind all gloom and sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor; There with joy your praises render
Unto him whose grace unbounded Has this wondrous supper founded.
Though he reigns above most holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.**

**2] Hasten as a bride to meet him, And with loving rev'ence greet him,
For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before him, Saying, as you there adore him
Grant, Lord, that I now receive you, That I nevermore will leave you.**

First Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb^a for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover. ¹² "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. ¹⁴ "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.

Psalm 116:10-14

*How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.*

- 10 I believed; therefore I said, "I am greatly afflicted."
11 And in my dismay I said, "All men are liars."
12 How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?
13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.
14 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

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.

Second Lesson

HEBREWS 10:15-25

¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: ¹⁶ "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." ¹⁷ Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Verse of the Day: ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)

The Gospel

Matthew 26:14-30

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

¹⁴ Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. ¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

The Lord's Supper

¹⁷ On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹⁸ He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'"
¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely not I, Lord?"

²³ Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you."^a

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the^b covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord

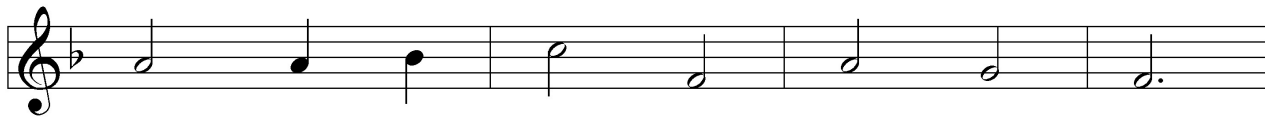
C: Praise be to you, O Christ (spoken)

Hymn: Twas on that Dark, that Doleful Night CW # 136

136 'Twas on that Dark, that Doleful Night



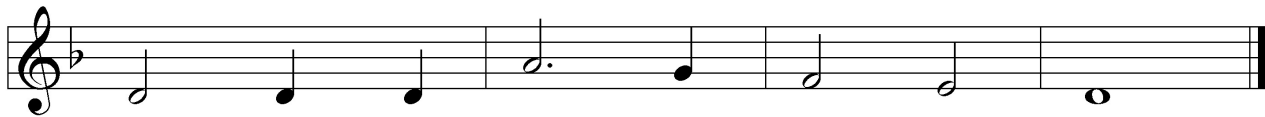
1 'Twas on that dark, that dole - ful night
 2 Be - fore the mourn - ful scene be - gan,
 3 "This is my bod - y, slain for sin;
 4 "Do this," he said, "till time shall end,
 5 Je - sus, your feast we cel - e - brate;



When pow'rs of earth and hell a - rose
 He took the bread and blessed and broke.
 Re - ceive and eat the liv - ing food."
 In mem - 'ry of your dy - ing friend;
 We show your death; we sing your name



A - gainst the Son, our God's de - light,
 What love through all his ac - tions ran!
 Then took the cup and blessed the wine:
 Meet at my ta - ble and re - cord
 Till you re - turn and we shall eat



And friends be - trayed him to his foes.
 What won - drous words of grace he spoke!
 "'Tis the new cov - 'nant in my blood."
 The love of your de - part - ed Lord."
 The mar - riage sup - per of the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
 Tune: ST. CROSS (LM) John B. Dykes, 1823–76.

Sermon Text: Luke 22:47, 48

The Battle is Personal

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten not made, of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Offering: *Please mail in your offering as we continue to support the work of spreading the gospel throughout our community and the world.*

Responsive Prayer:

- M:** Lord Jesus, on the night in which you were betrayed, you gave your church the new covenant of your body and blood. All the sacrifices of Old Testament times were fulfilled in you.
- C:** **We thank you for fulfilling all of the ancient ordinances and prophecies.**
- M:** You instituted the Holy Sacrament of your body and blood for our forgiveness and for the strengthening of our faith.
- C:** **Help us appreciate this personal way in which you come to us and long for the time when we can enjoy the supper again.**
- M:** Draw us to regular use of your life-giving meal that we may eat and drink in your presence.
- C:** **Assure us through this precious meal, that we are at one with you and each other.**

- M:** Direct us to your eternal kingdom where, with robes washed white in your blood, we will sit down with you at the heavenly feast of bliss and love.
- C:** **Give to us a renewed appreciation for the Lord's Supper. Let all of our celebrations of Holy Communion be a foretaste of the heavenly joy to come.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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 BLESSING

- M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn: "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" CW # 98

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On your ho - ly
 2 Make me see your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af -
 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see your
 4 If my sins give me a - larm And my con - science
 5 Grant that I your pas - sion view With re - pent - ant



pas - sion; With your Spir - it me en - dow
 flic - tion, Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness
 pas - sion, But its cause to me make known
 grieve me, Let your cross my fear dis - arm;
 griev - ing. Let me not bring shame to you



For such med - i - ta - tion. Grant that I in love
 And your cru - ci - fix - ion; Make me see how scourge
 And its ter - mi - na - tion. Ah! I al - so and
 Peace of con - science give me. Help me see for - give -
 By un - ho - ly liv - ing. How could I re - fuse

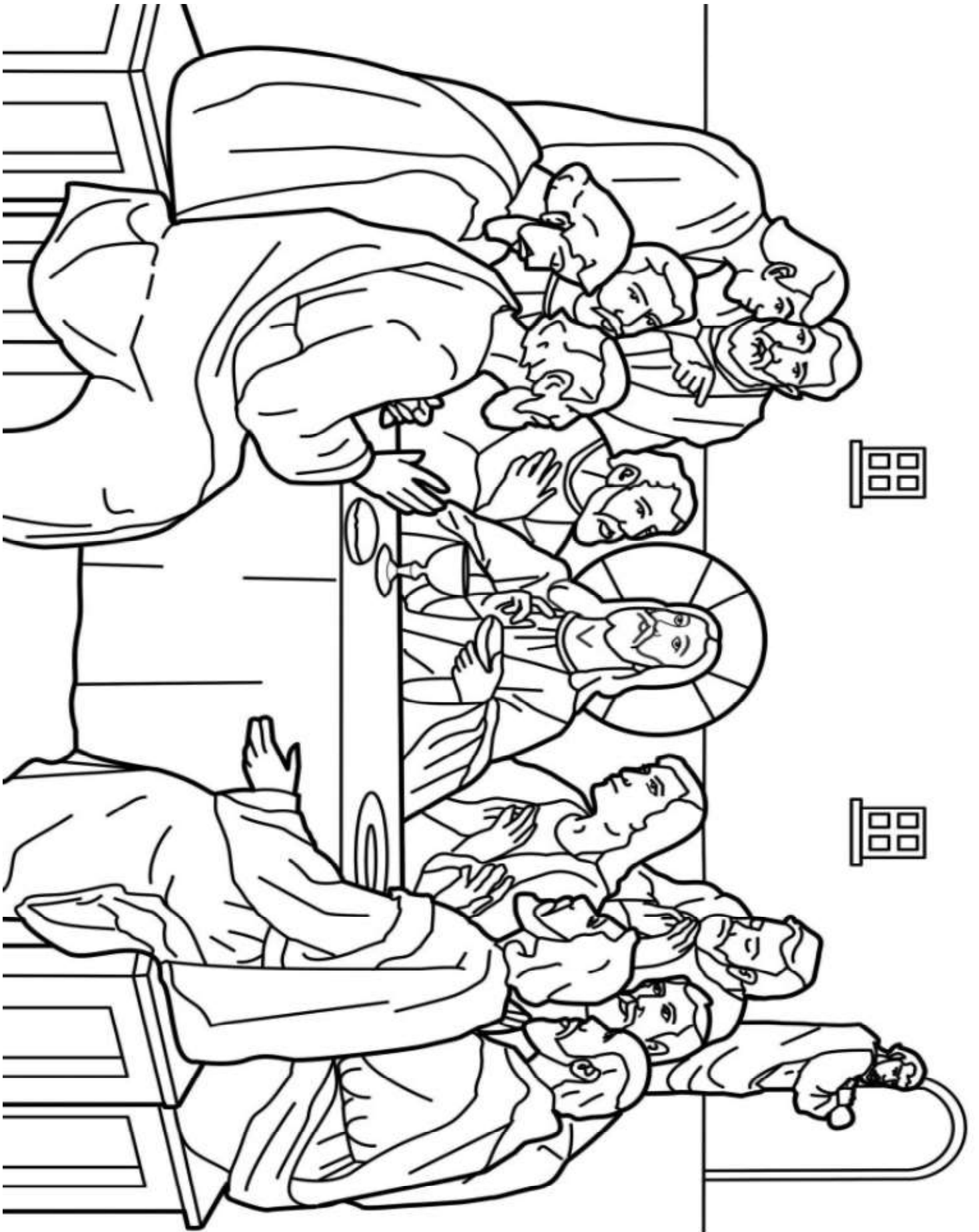


and faith May the im - age cher - ish Of your suf -
 and rod, Spear and nails did wound you, How for them
 my sin Wrought your deep af - flic - tion; This in - deed
 ness won By your ho - ly pas - sion. If for me
 to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful pleas - ure Since for me



f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
 you died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned you.
 the cause has been Of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
 he slays his Son, God must have com - pas - sion!
 God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out meas - ure?

6 Graciously my faith renew;
 Help me bear my crosses,
 Learning humbleness from you,
 Peace mid pain and losses.
 May I give you love for love!
 Hear me, O my Savior,
 That I may in heav'n above
 Sing your praise forever.



311 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



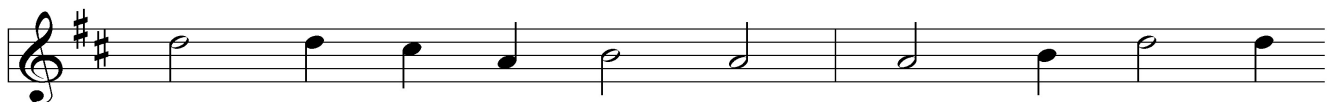
1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness; Leave be - hind all
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, And with lov - ing
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther cost nor
 4 Now I kneel be - fore you low - ly, Filled with joy most
 5 Hu - man rea - son, though it pon - ders, Can - not fath - om



gloom and sad - ness. Come in - to the day - light's splen - dor;
 rev - 'rence greet him, For with words of life im - mor - tal
 pain will mea - sure, But the price - less gifts of heav - en
 deep and ho - ly, As with trem - bling awe and won - der
 these great won - ders, That Christ's bod - y must be bound - less



There with joy your prais - es ren - der Un - to
 He is knock - ing at your por - tal. O - pen
 God to us has free - ly giv - en. Though the
 On your might - y work I pon - der, How by
 Since the souls it feeds are count - less, And that



him whose grace un - bound - ed Has this won - drous
 wide the gates be - fore him, Say - ing, as you
 wealth of earth were prof - fered, Naught would buy the
 mys - ter - y sur - round - ed, Depths that no one
 he his blood is giv - ing With the wine we



sup - per found - ed. Though he reigns a - bove most
 there a - dore him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 ev - er sound - ed. None may dare to pierce un -
 are re - ceiv - ing. These great mys - ter - ies un -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive you, That I nev - er - more will leave you.
 riv - en, And his blood, for you once giv - en.
 bid - den Se - crets that with you are hid - den.
 sound - ed Are by God a - lone ex - pound - ed.