# Rev. Karl J. Koeppen ...... Senior Pastor Rev. David Baker

Rev. Roger A. Drinnon Associate Pastor	Rev. David BakerMissionary to MongoliaRev. Ross EngelAdopt-A-ChaplainChurch & School Office:932-0312
Church Campus	

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Visitors...** Please sign our guest book found in the narthex (entrance). Our church has a few nooks and crannies, so don't be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available near the guest register.

## COMMUNION

As you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper, we invite you to turn to page 329-330 in the front of the hymnal and review section 4: "Christian Questions and their Answers." and to pages 308-309 or on the inside front cover of the hymnal for appropriate prayers before and after communion.

#### As we celebrate the <u>LORD'S SUPPER</u> today, we confess the <u>REAL PRESENCE</u>

We come to the Lord's Table because we have sinned and want the Lord's assurance of His forgiveness of our sins as well as His strength for living the new life of His resurrection. As we eat the bread and drink the wine, because Jesus says so, we also receive His very Body and Blood. Doing this in repentant faith, we receive His forgiveness. With forgiveness must also come the repentant new life, seeking and using His power to overcome sinful ways and forsaking them. This includes any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us and unfaithfulness in regular worship and attendance at the Lord's Table. Only in such faith do we properly and profitably receive the Sacrament and not misuse it to our judgment.

As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public confession to our unity in the Christian faith. We invite communicant members of this congregation, or another congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to commune. Prompted by love and caring, we ask that guests who wish to receive the sacrament please speak with the pastor or lay minister before the service.

#### **Directional Notes:**

- · Please follow the indications of the ushers as they direct you to the communion rail.
- The wine will be administered by both the common cup and individual cup. If you prefer the common cup, please let the individual cup pass and reach out for the common cup as it comes to you.
- Individual cups should be placed in the plastic lined baskets at the end of the communion rail.
- If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, the two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

# This cup is the new covenant

by my blood,

# which is poured out

for you.

LUKE 22:20

# Maundy Thursday "A New Covenant - For You!" April 17, 2025; 7:00 p.m.

**AS WE GATHER** ...Sin gets heavy. Sin can be embarrassing. We try to ignore it, cover it up, or pretend it doesn't exist. None of those things get rid of our sin or its weight on us. God doesn't minimize, excuse, or relativize sin. He places our sin on Jesus and nails it to a cross. God forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. As we come to our Lord's Table tonight, God freely forgives us through the body and blood of Christ that comes to us in, with, and under the bread and wine. God's covenant fully rests on Jesus, who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving up His life for the sins of the world. Because of Jesus, God forgives us, and He gives us confidence, comfort, and hope. We experience God's forgiveness tonight as we gather at our Lord's Table.

#### Special Music: "What Wondrous Love"

Sandy James & Nadine Engel, Piano/Organ Duet

**Ringing of the Bells** 

We're So Glad God Brought You Here Tonight!

#### PREPARATION

(The Pastors enter the church in silence)

**Opening Hymn: "When You Woke That Thursday Morning"** LSB, hymn #445

When You woke that Thursday morning, Savior, teacher, faithful friend, Thoughts of self and safety scorning, Knowing how the day would end; Lamb of God, foretold for ages, Now at last the hour had come When but One could pay sin's wages: You assumed their dreadful sum. Never so alone and lonely, Longing with tormented heart To be with Your dear ones only For a quiet hour apart: Sinless Lamb and fallen creature, One last paschal meal to eat, One last lesson as their teacher, Washing Your disciples' feet.

What was there that You could give them That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them, What last will and testament?
"Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me as the Lamb of God: Do this in remembrance of Me, Eat this body, drink this blood."

> One in faith, in love united, All one body, You the head, When we meet, by You invited, You are with us, as You said. One with You and one another In a unity sublime, See in us Your sister, brother, One in ev'ry place and time.

One day all the Church will capture That bright vision glorious, And Your saints will know the rapture That Your heart desired for us, When the longed-for peace and union Of the Greatest and the least Meet in joyous, blest communion In Your never-ending feast.

# **INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- P: We gather this evening to commemorate a most holy night, a night when God sealed His covenant with His people through bread and wine. Tonight we receive God's most precious gift of forgiveness for His people. Our Father in heaven desires to restore a right relationship with His children. To this end, He has established a new covenant with each of us in His Son, Jesus Christ. It is our Father who declares: *"I will be their God, and they will be My people."* Therefore, let us speak God's Word and confess our sins before Him, seeking His forgiveness and grace.... O Almighty God,
- C: When we look into the mirror of Your perfect law, we are reminded that we are no better than our ancestors. We rebel against You like the Israelites on the way to the Promised Land. We are like King David, committing sins we think no one will know about. You know us. You know our transgressions and sins against You and one another. We humbly come to You seeking forgiveness. Sprinkle our hearts and make them clean. Forgive our sins by the blood of Jesus that was given and shed for us. Renew a right spirit within us for Jesus' sake. Amen.
- P: Blessed people of God, you have confessed your transgressions to the Lord. He forgives your iniquity and will remember your sin no more. Therefore in the stead and by the command of my Lord, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen!!

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Let us pray. . . . Lord Jesus Christ, by Your life-giving Word and wondrous Sacrament, You give to us the benefits of Your death and resurrection.
- C: Guide us as we remember You and receive what is Yours alone to give life and salvation, full and free. Grant that as we are loved and forgiven, we may love and forgive others through the lives we live in You.

- P: For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.
- C: Amen!

(Please Be Seated)

**Special Music: "Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying"**Sanctuary Singers

# <u>+ WORD +</u>

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

(God's New Covenant)

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 10:15-39 (A New Covenant Because Of Jesus)

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: "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." Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 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. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 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. If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

#### Special Music: "In Remembrance"

Elayne James

Joel 2:13

Stand (as you are able)

#### Verse - Lent

- C: (Sung) Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.
- P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.
- C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

# Holy Gospel: Luke 22:7-20

(The Blood Of The New Covenant)

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there." They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

# Sermon Hymn: "O Lord, We Praise Thee"

LSB, hymn #617

O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee, In thanksgiving bow before Thee. Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy! May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did carry, And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy! Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven. No greater love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy! Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee That Thy blood should bless and sustain me. All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!

May God bestow on us His grace and favor That we follow Christ our Savior And live together here in love and union Nor despise this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy! Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us; Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

#### Pastor's Message: "THIS IS!"

Luke 22:7-20

Stand (as you are able)

# NICENE CREED

- P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.
- C: 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 Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian 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

# PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. . .

Lord God, on this night we remember how You rescued Your people from slavery in Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. We are reminded of how You have rescued us from slavery to sin and are bringing us to Your heavenly kingdom. Nourish our faith and lead us to walk in Your ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

#### C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, You made covenants with Your people throughout the centuries. Yet, in these last days, You have made a new covenant with us through Your Son. Make this covenant known among us and all peoples of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

#### C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus, As You gathered Your disciples for the Passover feast in the upper room, so gather us as a family of faith to partake of Your Eucharist Feast. May You strengthen the bonds of fellowship among Your people as we partake in this foretaste of the feast yet to come. Lord, in Your mercy;

# C: hear our prayer.

P: O God, as we gather at Your table, we give thanks for the faithful witness of those no longer with us here on earth who rejoice now in Your eternal presence. May we be inspired by their faithful witness and seek to serve You constantly all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

# C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

# C: Amen.

# (Please Be Seated)

#### **Offering & Attendance Cards**

Special Music: "Is There Any Other Way?" Choir

Soloists: Jesus: Isaac Fabbro, Judas: Ben Kubal

#### **OFFERTORY - Create In Me**

LSB, Divine Service 3, pg 192-193

C: (Sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

#### SACRAMENT

(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)

#### PREFACE

P:	The Lord be with you.	2 Timothy 4:22
C:	And also with you.	
P:	Lift up your hearts.	Colossians 3:1
C:	We lift them up to the Lord.	
P:	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	Psalm 136
<b>C</b> :	It is right to give Him thanks and praise.	

# PRAYER

(from "The Didache, 2nd Century writings on the Teachings of the Twelve Apostles")

- P: Let us pray, . . . We thank You, Holy Father, for Your name which You enshrined in our hearts. We thank You for the knowledge and faith and immortality which You revealed to us through Your servant Jesus. To You be glory forever.
- C: Almighty ruler, You created all things for the sake of Your name; You have given us food and drink to enjoy so that we might give You thanks. Now You have shown us favor through Jesus, Your servant, that we might have spiritual food and drink as well as eternal life. Above all we thank You because You are mighty. To You be glory forever.
- P: Remember, O Lord, Your Church and deliver her from all evil. Perfect her in Your love; and, once she has been sanctified, gather her together from the four winds into the kingdom which You have prepared for her. For power and glory are Yours forever.

- C: May grace come and this world pass away! Hosanna to the God of David. If any are holy, let them come to Your table. If any are not, let them repent. Amen.
- P: O Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- All: 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

# WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P: 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 is my + blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

(Please be seated)

Agnus Dei ~ The Lamb of God - Divine Service 1

John 1:29

C: (Sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

# **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

# LSB857 - Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

Lord, help us walk Your servant way Wherever love may lead And, bending low, forgetting self, Each serve the other's need. You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But pow'r You laid aside. You lived Your years in servanthood; In lowliness You died.

No golden scepter but a towel You place within the hands Of those who seek to follow You And live by Your commands.

You bid us bend our human pride Nor count ourselves above The lowest place, the meanest task That waits the gift of love.

Lord, help us walk Your servant way Wherever love may lead And, bending low, forgetting self, Each serve the other's need.

LSB547 - The Lamb

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice? Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price! *Refrain* 

Refrain Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering. The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. *Refrain*  The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. *Refrain* 

Refrain Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness. He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. *Refrain* 

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows. His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. *Refrain* 

#### LSB575 - My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name. *Refrain* 

> Refrain On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*  His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood; When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain* 

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found, Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! *Refrain* 

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

- P: Let us pray, . . . Our Father, during this week of Jesus' Passion, when we remember and attend to all that Your dear Son gave for us, You have provided us with a memorial of the Passover meal and the freedom from bondage and slavery it embodies.
- C: Through the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood, You have freed us and granted us Your peace.
- P: Strengthen us in the living hope that all our sins are forgiven through Jesus until we come at last to celebrate with all Your saints the Lamb's high feast in His kingdom which lasts forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.
- C: Amen.

#### Closing Hymn: "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

LSB, hymn #436

Go to dark Gethsemane,<br/>Your Redeemer's conflict see,<br/>Turn not from His griefs away;All who feel the tempter's pow'r;<br/>Watch with Him one bitter hour;<br/>Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; View the Lord of life arraigned; Oh, the pangs His soul sustained! Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; Mark that miracle of time, God's "It is finished!" hear Him cry; Learn

b; There, adoring at His feet, God's own sacrifice complete. Learn from Jesus Christ to die. 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.

## See You In Worship Tomorrow.

# STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

**Psalm 22** (While the Psalm is read, the altar and chancel are stripped of all vessels, appointments, and paraments, symbolizing the abuse our Lord would endure beginning shortly after instituting the Sacrament of Holy Communion.)

## SEE BACK PAGE

After the Psalm, please depart in silence. There is no Benediction. Our worship continues tomorrow. We hope to see you there!

> (Holy Week devotion continues tomorrow, Good Friday, at 12:05 & 7:00 p.m.)

# Serving In God's House Today

Preacher:	Pastor Roger Drinnon	
Liturgist:	Pastor Karl Koeppen	
Organist:	Nadine Engel	
Lay Minister:	Rich Engel	
Acolytes:	Dain & Dylan Blair	
Trustee:	Rob Wood	
Ushers:	Mike Callan, Steve Weith, Rob & Mary Wood	
-		

#### Choir:

Hope Brammer, Chloe Butler, Natalie Cherry, Sarah Cherry, Mike Clendenin, Liz Deck, Olivia Douglas, Katrina Drinnon, Brent Eden, Nancy Eden, Rick Einfeldt, Isaac Fabbro, Ruth Fabbro, Gail Ferrebee (Director), Duane Ferrebee, Adele Hinze, Elayne James, Sandy James, Ben Kubal, Elizabeth Kubal, Alena Lagesse, Heidi Ostrowski, Sharla Ronchetto, Cindy Rubin, Daphne Sexton, Delilah Sexton

#### **Sanctuary Singers:**

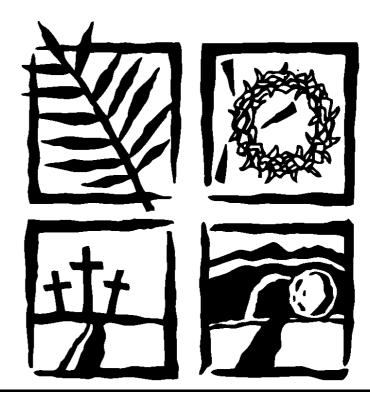
Connie Blacklock, Mike Clendenin, Liz Deck, Katrina Drinnon, Nancy Eden, Brent Eden, Adele Hinze, Elayne James, Sandy James, Eugene Wachholz

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# Holy Week Service Schedule

GOOD FRIDAY - JESUS SUFFERS FOR US!!

Friday, April 18th - 12:05 p.m. ..... (Downtown Church Campus)

GOOD FRIDAY - TENEBRAE - SERVICE OF DARKNESS

Friday, April 18th - 7:00 p.m. ..... (Downtown Church Campus)

# SATURDAY - NO WORSHIP SERVICE - April 19th

# EASTER SUNDAY - JESUS IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD FOR US!!

Sunday, April 20th	6:00 a.m. Communion	(Downtown Church Campus)
	9:00 a.m. Communion	(Downtown Church Campus)
	11:00 a.m. Communion	(Downtown Church Campus)

#### THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR - REMEMBERING OUR LORD'S SUFFERING

After the Last Supper, events in our Lord's life moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane

betrayal by Judas arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgotha and execution.

As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to point to His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

Flowers are new life springing forth. In the passion and suffering of Christ, human life ebbs from Him. In recognition of this we remove the flowers from our altar.

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human

life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when He suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in sending His Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand.

Jesus' offered Body and His shed Blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

Our altar is in the form of a table. It is here where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade; materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.