

MAUNDY THURSDAY

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO SERVES AND FEEDS US

When Christians gather as the church, it is for what we normally call a “service.” In daily life a “service” is, of course, a person or group who provides something of value to others; for instance, a food service, a cleaning service, or a place for “servicing” your car. But when we gather as church for a service, who is doing the serving and who is being served? After all, with our eyes we only see one another singing and praying, making the sign of the cross, standing, sitting, kneeling, baptizing with water, and communing with bread and wine. It is easy for some to get the impression that this activity we call “worship” is a gathering where we are doing something for God. What is really going on of most importance is God’s doing, God’s serving us through the ministry of Word and Sacrament. This divine service was most dramatically shown in this night on which our Lord Jesus serves and feeds us.

Tonight, our mighty Lord, who has proved His power over demons, sickness, and even death, takes the humbler part. His loving service is shown, first, by taking the role of a servant washing His disciples’ feet. His greatest and chief service, however, He announced as He took charge of the ancient Passover meal, changing it from a mere memorial of what God has done in the Old Testament exodus of the past to its fulfillment in what He was about to accomplish in His innocent, bitter suffering and death on a cross. From now on, the fulfillment of the annual Passover feast is to be celebrated “often” as the chief means by which God literally connects us with our Lord’s crucified body and His precious blood that take away the sin of the world “as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup” (*LSB*, p. 162).

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

HYMN

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (*LSB* 621)*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.***P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.**C** Amen.**P** I will go to the altar of God,**C** to God my exceeding joy.**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,**C** who made heaven and earth.

CONFESSIONAL ADDRESS

P 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 it is our intention 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 incapable of delivering 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, 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 most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. As our Lord on this night exemplified this love by washing His disciples’ feet, so we by our words and actions serve one another in love. 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, being 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.

C Amen.

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

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

- C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.
- C** Amen.
- P** Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?
- C** Yes.
- P** Let it be done for you as you believe.
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 116:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

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.

KYRIE

LSB, p. 152

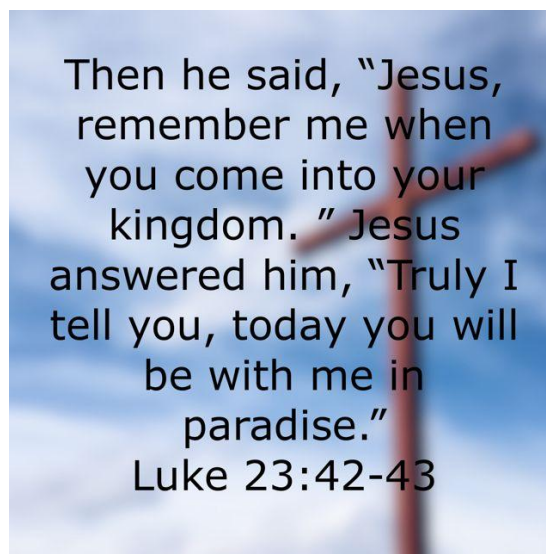
- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
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.
C **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

Remember Me



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 12:1–14

P The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, the twelfth chapter.

¹The 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 will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will 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. ¹³The 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.

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.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 11:23–32

P The Epistle is from First Corinthians, the eleventh chapter.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁵In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we

would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

John 13:1b

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. ⁵Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸Peter said to Him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with Me.” ⁹Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” ¹¹For He knew who was to betray Him; that was why He said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹²When He had washed their feet and put on His outer garments and resumed His place, He said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. . . .

^{31b}When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him. ³²If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him at once. ³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek Me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

“The Lamb” (*LSB* 547)

SERMON

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Almighty God, as we conclude these holy forty days of Lent and enter the three days of our Lord's Passion, death, and rest in the tomb, we give You thanks that You have shown Him to be for us Your very hand of our creation and life; our victorious Lord over the adversary Satan and his hordes; our Great Physician, who heals our diseases; our Lord of Life, who raises us from death; and our all-powerful Lord in whom all things hold together whether on earth or in heaven. Tonight, as He demonstrated His love at His Last Supper, make us to be servants of love toward one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Defend Your whole church throughout the world, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Strengthen all pastors to rightly preach and administer Your Sacraments. Sanctify Your faithful people, making them perfect in faith, love, and in all good works. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Bless the missions of Your church, the newly established congregations, and those that reach out across the world with the light of Your truth and witness to Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Preserve our nation in justice and honor, that we may lead a peaceable life in all honesty and integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear offices of the authority of government in our land and help them to serve all people according to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

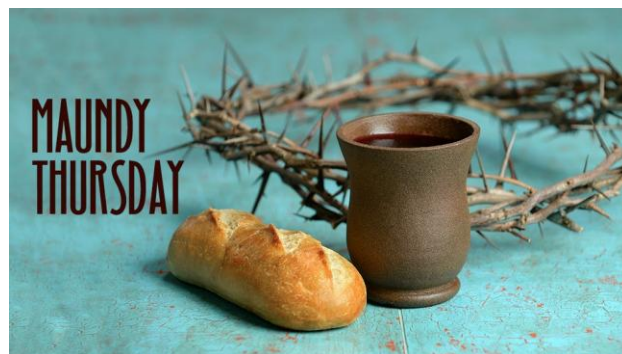
P By Your Word and Spirit, comfort all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or adversity, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,

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.

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (see Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).





+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

LSB, p. 160

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, 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:

SANCTUS

LSB, p. 161

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB, p. 161

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB, p. 162

- 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB, p. 162

- 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 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."

PAX DOMINI

LSB, p. 163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

- C** Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB, p. 163

- C** 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

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“What Wondrous Love Is This” (LSB 543)

“Abide With Me” (LSB 878)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

LSB, p. 165

- C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.
 My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev’ry people:
 A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
 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.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

LSB, p. 166

- P** Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

+ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR +

The Communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday.

PSALM

Psalm 22

- ¹My God, My God, why have You for- | saken Me?*
- Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My | groaning?
- ²O My God, I cry by day, but You do not | answer,*
and by night, but I | find no rest.
- ³Yet You are | holy,*
enthroned on the praises of | Israel.
- ⁴In You our fathers | trusted;*
- they trusted, and You de- | livered them.
- ⁵To You they cried and were | rescued;*
- in You they trusted and were not | put to shame.
- ⁶But I am a worm and | not a man,*
scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.
- ⁷All who see Me | mock Me;*
- they make mouths at Me; they | wag their heads;
- ⁸“He trusts in the LORD; let Him de- | liver Him;*
- let Him rescue Him, for He de- | lights in Him!”
- ⁹Yet You are He who took Me | from the womb;*
- You made Me trust You at My | mother’s breasts.
- ¹⁰On You was I cast | from My birth,*
and from My mother’s womb You have | been My God.
- ¹¹Be not far from Me,
for trouble | is near,*
and there is | none to help.
- ¹²Many bulls en- | compass Me;*
- strong bulls of Bashan sur- | round Me;
- ¹³they open wide their | mouths at Me,*
like a ravening and roaring | lion.
- ¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all My bones are | out of joint;*
- My heart is like wax;
it is melted with- | in My breast;
- ¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and My tongue sticks | to My jaws;*
- You lay Me in the | dust of death.
- ¹⁶For dogs en- | compass Me;*
- a company of evildoers encircles Me;
they have pierced My | hands and feet—
- ¹⁷I can count | all My bones—*
- they stare and gloat | over Me;
- ¹⁸they divide My garments a- | mong them,*

- and for My clothing they | cast lots.
¹⁹But You, O LORD, do not be | far off!*
- O You My help, come quickly | to My aid!
²⁰Deliver My soul | from the sword,*
My precious life from the power | of the dog!
²¹Save Me from the mouth of the | lion!*
- You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild | oxen!
²²I will tell of Your name to My | brothers;*
- in the midst of the congregation I will | praise You:
²³You who fear the LORD, praise Him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glo- | rify Him,*
and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of | Israel!
- ²⁴For 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.
- ²⁵From You comes My praise in the great congre- | gation;*
- My vows I will perform before those who | fear Him.
²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek Him shall | praise the LORD!*
- May your hearts live for- | ever!
²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn | to the LORD,*
and all the families of the nations
shall worship be- | fore You.
- ²⁸For kingship belongs | to the LORD,*
and He rules over the | nations.
- ²⁹All 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 him- | self alive.
³⁰Posterity shall | serve Him;*
- it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;
³¹they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people | yet unborn,*
that He has | done it.

All leave the church in silence.