Follow Jesus – Sermon Series for Lent

Ash Wednesday

Sermon: "Follow the Blood" – Hebrews 9:22

Readings:
Psalm 51
Genesis 3
Hebrews 10:1-25
Matthew 26:17-30

Hymns:
"Glory Be to Jesus" - TLH # 158
"Chief of Sinners Though I Be" - TLH # 342
"My Soul doth Magnify the Lord" - TLH # 275
"Not All the Blood of Beasts" - TLH # 156

Order of Service: *The Lutheran Hymnal*
– The Order of Vespers, page 41ff (omit "Hallelujah")
– *The Apostles' Creed* is the Confession of the Faith
– The Order of Confessional Service, pages 47-48
– Service of the Sacrament, page 24ff (spoken)

2nd Wednesday of Lent

Sermon: "Follow the Tree" – 1 Peter 2:24

Readings:
Psalm 16
Lamentations 3:1-33
Galatians 3:1-14
Matthew 27:24-37

Hymns:
"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" - TLH # 140
"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" - TLH # 145
"My Soul doth Magnify the Lord" - TLH # 275
"Throned upon the Awe-full Tree" - TLH # 174

Order of Service: *The Lutheran Hymnal*
– The Order of Vespers, page 41ff (omit "Hallelujah")
– *The Apostles' Creed* is the Confession of the Faith

3rd Wednesday of Lent

Sermon: "Follow the Thief" – Hebrews 11:6

Readings: Psalm 32
Genesis 4
Hebrews 11
Luke 23:32-43

Hymns: "Alas, My God, My Sins Are Great" - TLH # 317
"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" - TLH # 394
"My Soul doth Magnify the Lord" - TLH # 275
"Abide with Me!" - TLH # 552, stanzas 1-2 & 6-8

Order of Service: *The Lutheran Hymnal*
– The Order of Vespers, page 41ff (omit "Hallelujah")
– *The Apostles' Creed* is the Confession of the Faith

4th Wednesday of Lent

Sermon: "Follow the Myrrh" – Psalm 45:6-8

Readings: Psalm 45
Exodus 30:22-33
Hebrews 9
Mark 15:21-47

Hymns: "Glory be to Jesus" - TLH # 158
"Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus" - TLH # 367
"On My Heart Imprint Thine Image" - TLH # 179
"All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" - TLH # 558

Order of Service: *The Lutheran Hymnal*
– The Order of Vespers, page 41ff (omit "Hallelujah")
– *The Apostles' Creed* is the Confession of the Faith

5th Wednesday of Lent

Sermon: "Follow the Hyssop" – Psalm 51:7

Readings:
Psalm 51
Exodus 12:1-28
Hebrews 3 & 4
John 19:25-37

Hymns:
"Lord Jesus, Think on Me" - TLH # 320
"Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing" - TLH # 144
"Go to Dark Gethsemane" - TLH # 159
"In the Hour of Trial" - TLH # 516

Order of Service: *The Lutheran Hymnal*
– The Order of Vespers, page 41ff (omit "Hallelujah")
– *The Apostles' Creed* is the Confession of the Faith

6th Wednesday of Lent

Sermon: "Follow the Cloud" – Mark 15:33

Readings:
Psalm 97
Exodus 40
Hebrews 12
Mark 19:33-37

Hymns:
"Lord, Open Thou My Heart to Hear" - TLH # 5
"Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted" - TLH # 153
"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" - TLH # 172, st. 1-2 & 9-10
"All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" - TLH # 558

Order of Service: *The Lutheran Hymnal*
– The Order of Vespers, page 41ff (omit "Hallelujah")
– *Evening Suffrages*, pages 115-116 are after the offering

Maundy Thursday

Sermon: "Follow the Way of Life" – 1 John 5:6

Readings: Psalm 67
Old Testament Reading – Exodus 24:3-11
Epistle Reading – 1 Corinthians 11:17-32
Gospel Reading – John 13:1-17, 34

Hymns: "Lord Jesus, Think on Me" - TLH # 320
"'Twas on that Dark, that Doleful Night" - TLH # 164
"Glory Be To Jesus" - TLH # 158

Order of Service: *The Lutheran Hymnal*
– *The Order of the Confessional Service*, page 46f
– *The Apostles' Creed* is the Confession of the Faith
– *The Order of the Holy Communion*, page 24ff
– *The Rite of Stripping the Altar, Lectern and Pulpit*
(See separate page below.)

Good Friday

Sermon: "Follow the Curtain" – Hebrews 10:19-22

Readings, Hymns, Order of Service: See the order of service below.

The Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord

Sermon: "Follow Jesus" – Psalm 118:17

Readings: As appointed for the day.

Hymns: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" - TLH # 199
"I Know that My Redeemer Lives" - TLH # 200
"The Day of Resurrection" - TLH # 205
"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" - TLH # 193
"At the Lamb's High Feast" – LW # 126

Order of Service: *The Lutheran Hymnal* – page 15

The Rite of Stripping the Altar, Lectern and Pulpit on Maundy Thursday

This is from various sources and has been modified over the years.
The original source is unknown. Please adapt as is appropriate for your use.

The sanctuary hosts many items that are of the Christian faith. Each is in the holy place here for a particular purpose. Together they speak of salvation and forgiveness given by the Father, wrought by the Son and bestowed by the Holy Spirit through the means of grace. They speak of life.

On that first Maundy Thursday, our Lord Jesus was preparing Himself for our death. As we prepare for tomorrow and as we ponder the day of Jesus' crucifixion, we remove items from the altar, lectern and pulpit. We strip this holy place of life, as our Lord Jesus was stripped of His Life by offering Himself as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world.

The Palm Sunday Banner and Palm Plants

The crowds shouting "Hosanna!" will soon be shouting, "Crucify Him!" Therefore we remove the Palm Sunday Banner and the Palm Plants.

The Flowers

Flower are a part of God's good and beautiful creation. But during His Passion, our Lord's beauty was taken away and replaced with the ugliness of death. Therefore the flowers are removed.

The Offering Plates

The offering plates carry gifts of thanks to the altar – gifts that the LORD first has given to us. God so loved the world that He gave His Only-Begotten Son. Thus Jesus is the greatest gift ever given. For a time, he was taken away in death. His disciples gave no gifts ... no thanks. Gloom and grieving replaced thanksgiving. Therefore we remove the offering plates.

The Communion Ware

The Lord's Supper is the Body and Blood of Christ, in, with and under the bread and wine, given and shed for us for the remission of sin. For a time, His Blood flowed no more and His Body was placed in a tomb and hidden from view. Thus we remove the Communion vessels from view.

The Missal Stand and The Bible

The Missal stand holds the Bible, God's Word for us to read and to hear. Jesus is also the Word of God. He is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. He came to preach the Word of God, which is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword. On Good Friday Jesus died. The Word was silenced. So we remove the missal stand and the Bible.

The Candles

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world." He brought Light and Life to people living in the darkness that leads to death. On Good Friday the Light was snuffed out, and a great darkness covered the land for three hours. Therefore the acolyte extinguishes the candles and they are removed from the sanctuary.

The Altar Cloths and the Paraments

The Psalmist says, "Thou preparest a table before me ... and ... my cup overflows." Jesus has been our Host here this evening. The royal linens speak the Presence of the King Who has invited us to His Table. Tonight He has eaten His last Supper and will not feast with us again until another Day. So we strip the table clean.

The Good Friday Service on

the next page has been

modified and changed over the years.

No doubt parts and sections from

various other sources have been used.

Certainly attribution would be given if the origins were known.

Note also that the “meditations” in the service below are times for silence for personal reflection.

The Invocation

The Reading of Psalm 2

"O Sacred Head" — # 172, st. 1 & 4

The Reading of Psalm 22

"Stricken, Smitten" — # 153, st. 1 & 2

The Reading of Psalm 27:1-14

"O Dearest Jesus" — # 143, st. 1-5

Good Friday Sermon:

"Follow the Curtain" — Hebrews 10:19-22

THE WORDS OF REFLECTION

Note in the following hymns that the first part of the hymn speaks the truth of what happened and what Jesus said on the cross nearly 2,000 years ago. The second part of the hymn has applications to the one singing the hymn today with special petitions. Take the time to understand the application to you as you sing these hymns.

The Word of Forgiveness:

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:33-38
Meditation on the First Word
Hymn #180: "Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes"

The Word of Concern:

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:39-43
Meditation on the Second Word
Hymn # 181: "Jesus, Pitying the Sighs"

The Word of Love:

Scripture Reading: John 19:25-27
Meditation on the Third Word
Hymn # 182: "Jesus, Loving to the End"

The Word of Loneliness:

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:45-46
Meditation on the Fourth Word
Hymn # 183: "Jesus, Whelmed in Fears Unknown"

The Word of Suffering:

Scripture Reading: John 19:28-29
Meditation on the Fifth Word
Hymn # 184: "Jesus, in Thy Thirst and Pain"

The Word of Victory:

Scripture Reading: John 19:30
Meditation on the Sixth Word
Hymn # 185: "Jesus, All Our Ransom Paid"

The Word of Reunion:

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:44-46
Meditation on the Seventh Word
Hymn # 186: "Jesus, All Thy Labor Vast"

The Reading of Matthew 27:51-56 and John 19:31-42
The Good Friday Prayer
The LORD's Prayer (chanted by all)
Removal of the Christ Candle

The Christ Candle is removed for a time, as we recall our LORD's death and burial. The *strepitus* is heard, a harsh noise noting the fulfillment of the Law by Jesus, as well as His death, the earthquake, and the tearing of the curtain. The Christ Candle is returned to its place in anticipation of our LORD's Resurrection.

The Reading of Isaiah 53

The Benediction

The Closing of the Book and the Returning of the Christ Candle

The Silent Recessional

At the conclusion of this Divine Service of the Word, please leave silently when you desire, maintaining the spirit of worship befitting this solemn evening. There is no formal offering received this evening during the service. A plate has been provided on the table by the door for those who have an offering.