

# Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 1, 2021



## ***Introduction to the day***

*This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another.*

*By remembering the Passover and the Last Supper and the foot washing, we are not trying to get back to an old time. In the face of the suffering and death with which the world is filled, our trying would not come to much. But God's word comes to us now. To our time. Even when we cannot meet for the holy supper together, this word — which takes these three nights to say — comes to us: Jesus Christ is our forgiveness. He is the Lamb whose blood marks the doors of our houses and bodies. In the power of the Spirit, he has washed our feet and our lives. And he turns us toward our neighbors. In this word — and in the cross proclaimed tomorrow and the resurrection proclaimed on Saturday night — Easter comes out to hold us already.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Dip your finger in a little bit of olive oil and retrace the cross made on your forehead at baptism as the below is said by the pastor.*

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

**Amen.**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## **FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14**

A reading from Exodus.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. [<sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ] <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

**<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD

for all the good things God has done for me?

**<sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people.

**<sup>15</sup>Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

**<sup>17</sup>I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people,

**<sup>19</sup>in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

A reading from 1 Corinthians. <sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

<sup>25</sup>In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord. Save us as you promised;  
we will trust your word.**

## **GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

<sup>12</sup>After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

<sup>31b</sup>“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the needs of the world, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "we call upon your name." *A brief silence.*

Blessed are you, O God, for the church. Strengthen your people, gathered around the globe on this holy day in homes, in churches, and outside under your sky. Bless the church's deacons and all congregational ministries. Give us hunger for your word and joy in receiving it. Feed us at all our tables with your blessing. *A brief silence.*

Hear us, holy God. **We call upon your name.**

Blessed are you for this good earth. Cleanse and protect the water you have given for our drinking and our washing. Sustain crops and herds that provide our food; teach us how to live so that there is enough for all. *A brief silence.*

Hear us, bountiful God. **We call upon your name.**

Blessed are you for our nation. Lead us out of ancient patterns of prejudice. Protect all people throughout the world who flee violence and oppression. Establish wise and just leadership in every place and peace where there is violence and war. *A brief silence.*

Hear us, sovereign God. **We call upon your name.**

Blessed are you for caring for the needy. Feed the hungry. Give jobs to the unemployed. Embrace all who are isolated and lonely. Comfort those living with guilt and those who mourn. *A brief silence.* Hear us, merciful God. **We call upon your name.**

Blessed are you for accompanying the sick. Bring an end to this pandemic, and restore healthy and hearty connections between persons. Empower medical personnel. Receive our prayers for all we name here before you: . . . . *A brief silence.*

Hear us, faithful God. **We call upon your name.**

Blessed are you for serving us, we who are your servants. Receive now, we pray, our silent petitions. *A longer period of silence.*

Hear us, loving God. **We call upon your name.**

Blessed are you for generations of the faithful who have proclaimed our Lord's death and lived in service to others. Unite us with them in hope until we join with them at your everlasting banquet. *A brief silence.*

Hear us, eternal God. **We call upon your name.**

Hear these and all our prayers, O God, in the name of the one who loves us to the end, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Finally, remembering Jesus going to his arrest and his death, the events from which all the mercy that fills this night, we pray Psalm 88.*

<sup>1</sup>O Lord, my God, my Savior, by day and night I cry to you.

<sup>2</sup>**Let my prayer enter into your presence; incline your ear to my lamentation.**

<sup>3</sup>For I am full of trouble; my life is at the brink of the grave.

<sup>4</sup>**I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I have become like one who has no strength;**

<sup>5</sup>lost among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave,  
whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.

<sup>6</sup>**You have laid me in the depths of the pit, in dark places, and in the abyss.**

<sup>7</sup>Your anger weighs upon me heavily, and all your great waves overwhelm me.

<sup>8</sup>**You have put my friends far from me; you have made me to be abhorred by them; I am in prison and cannot get free.**

<sup>9</sup>My sight has failed me because of trouble;

Lord, I have called upon you daily; I have stretched out my hands to you.

<sup>10</sup>**Do you work wonders for the dead? Will those who have died stand up and give you thanks?**

<sup>11</sup>Will your lovingkindness be declared in the grave, your faithfulness in the land of destruction?

<sup>12</sup>**Will your wonders be known in the dark  
or your righteousness in the country where all is forgotten?**

<sup>13</sup>But as for me, O Lord, I cry to you for help;  
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

<sup>14</sup>**Lord, why have you rejected me? Why have you hidden your face from me?**

<sup>15</sup>Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the point of death;  
I have borne your terrors and am helpless.

<sup>16</sup>**Your blazing anger has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me;**

<sup>17</sup>they surround me all day long like a flood; they encompass me on every side.

<sup>18</sup>**My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me, and darkness is my only companion.**

Go in Peace. The service continues tomorrow at 7pm.