



April 6, 2023

**Maundy Thursday
Service of Holy Communion**

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. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

PRELUDE Sonata in Bb Major Andante religioso F. Mendelssohn**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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

The assembly is seated. People may come forward and kneel for the laying on of hands.

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

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate
ELW 722

- 1 O Christ, your heart, compassionate,
 bore ev'ry human pain.
 Its beating was the pulse of God;
 its breadth, God's vast domain.
 The heart of God, the heart of Christ
 combined in perfect rhyme
 to write God's love in human deeds,
 eternity in time.

- 2 As once you welcomed those cast down
 and healed the sick, the blind,
 so may all bruised and broken lives
 through us your help still find.
 Lord, join our hearts with those who weep
 that none may weep alone,
 and help us bear another's pain
 as though it were our own.

- 3 O Christ, create new hearts in us
 that beat in time with yours,
 that, joined by faith with your great heart,
 become love's open doors.
 We are your body, risen Christ;
 our hearts, our hands we yield
 that through our life and ministry
 your love may be revealed.

- 4 O Love that made the distant stars,
 yet marks the sparrow's fall,
 whose arms stretched wide upon a cross
 embrace and bear us all:
 come, make your church a servant church
 that walks your servant ways,
 whose deeds of love rise up to you,
 a sacrifice of praise!

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

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.

²³For 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, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In 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." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Pg. 34



Choir

I give you a new commandment,* that you love one another just as I have loved you.

Repeat Acclamation

GOSPEL

John

13:1-17, 31b-35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one other.

¹Now 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. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then 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. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, “Unless I 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, “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.” ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

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

^{31b}“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By 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

HYMN OF THE DAY **Great God, Your Love Has Called Us**
ELW 358

- 1 Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

- 2 We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.

- 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own
not through some merit, right, or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.

- 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

- 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

Hand Washing as Act of Servant Love

On this night we have heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. 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. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of hands, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

Worshippers are invited to come forward to the two stations in the front of the nave to receive the washing of hands and then to wash the hands of those who follow them. Gently pour water over the hands of the other with the water pitcher and then use towel/napkin to dry

Ubi caritas et amor WHERE TRUE CHARITY AND LOVE ABIDE
ELW 642

Ubi caritas et amor
Where True Charity and Love Abide

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.
God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

Text: Latin antiphon, 9th cent.; Taizé Community; tr. With One Voice

Music: TALIZE UBI CARITAS, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

... revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen**

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM **View from the Upper Room**

Sung by the Choir Words by P. Martin; music by C. Courtney

*In the upper room I see a simple man and unashamed to bend,
He kneels to serve His friends. And in the upper room
I see them as they dine upon the bread and wine, His life and
death entwined.*

*From the upper room I see Gethsemane, I see His anguished
plea beneath the olive trees.*

*And from the upper room I see His arms stretched wide as He is
lifted high against the blackened sky.*

*In an upper room I see a table there where one day I will share
the feast He has prepared.*

*And in an upper room I'll see the Savior's face, beneath His
loving gaze I'll drink the cup of grace.*

*My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE COME TO THE TABLE

ELW 481

*Come to the table of mercy,
prepared with the wine and the bread.*

*All who are hungry and thirsty,
come, and your souls will be fed.*

*Come at the Lord's invitation;
receive from his nail-scarred hand.*

*Eat of the bread of salvation;
drink of the blood of the Lamb.*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
Transforming death into life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Pg. 36



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
 God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord, Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, Father,
 through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
 whom you sent in this end of the ages
 to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,
through whom you created all things,
and in whom you take delight.
He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.
He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands in suffering
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely
accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we take this bread and cup,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus
Christ;

through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to come forward to the front of the nave to receive the Meal. The bread will be distributed by the Presiding Minister. Gluten free wafers are available. Please ask. The wine, served in small glasses, can be received on either side of the front. Also in each tray you will find glasses containing white grape juice as an alternative to the wine. Return to your seats via the side aisles, placing your empty glasses in the baskets provided along the way. In returning to your seats, pause to pray and give thanks for the life-giving graces you have received in this holy meal offered us by the crucified-risen Jesus.

Come and receive Jesus,
our strength in the wilderness.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God*

ACS p. 40

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Lamb of God'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, all written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a focus on the words 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.'

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Duet *A Lenten Love Song* **Helen Kemp**

*Now Jesus went into the garden, the garden of Gethsemane.
 He went there sad and very weary to be alone, to pray.
 "Dear God, I am so sorrowful, is there no other way?
 Dear God, if it is possible, let this cup pass away."*

*Now Jesus went into the garden, the garden of Gethsemane.
 The olive tree bent over him, and heard him sadly pray:
 "Dear God, your Son is sorrowful, but knows your way is best.
 Let love take hold of me! Help me to be bold and free
 to do your will, to do your will and rest.
 Ubi caritas et amor, Ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.*

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
 and keep you in his grace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament
 you strengthen us with the saving power
 of your suffering, death, and resurrection.
 May this sacrament of your body and blood
 so work in us that the fruits of your redemption
 will show forth in the way we live,
 for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever.

Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The service concludes with the stripping of the Altar, reminding us of the humiliation, torture and death of Jesus. All is left bare and vulnerable. The assembly may be seated. Lights will be dimmed.

Psalm 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
 Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my
 groaning?
²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
 and by night, but find no rest.
³Yet you are holy,
 enthroned on the praises of Israel.
⁴In you our ancestors trusted;
 they trusted, and you delivered them.
⁵To you they cried, and were saved;
 in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.
⁶But I am a worm, and not human;
 scorned by others, and despised by the people.
⁷All who see me mock at me;
 they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
⁸"Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver —
 let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"
⁹Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
 you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
¹⁰On you I was cast from my birth,

and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

¹¹Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

¹²Many bulls encircle me,
strong bulls of Bashan surround 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 within my breast;

¹⁵my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me.
My hands and feet have shriveled;

¹⁷I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;
¹⁸they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog!

²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!
From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

²²I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

³⁰Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the LORD,

³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

There is no Blessing or Sending. The liturgy does not end here but merely pauses continuing tomorrow evening with Good Friday.

All depart in silence.

WORSHIP LEADERS for Thursday, April 6, 2023

The Rev. Les Swenson, Deacon Gwynne Hopko

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Kyle Galvin, Noah Galvin

Ushers: Tina Beaudoin, Gerald Beaudoin, Carol Emond

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

Duet: Emily Gdovin, Britt Lynch

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All You Need Is Love

Jesus' command today to love one another is not about having good feelings for each other or being "nice." Jesus tells his disciples that they are to love one another "just as I have loved you." By this definition, love means compassion, mercy, and plenty of hard work. As we see in today's gospel, Jesus' love is active in service and, ultimately, sacrifice. All we need is love, but to love as Jesus loves is no easy thing.

Jesus' love is also inclusive, not meant only for the inner circle. Taken in the context of Jesus' teaching and ministry, his love, and the love he has in mind for us, is offered to all of humanity and, in fact, all of God's creation. The world will know that the church follows Jesus not only by our behavior within our own community, but also as we relate to the world. To love as Jesus loved is to cross boundaries, to stand with the lowliest among us, and to challenge the accepted ways in which the world does business.

John's is the only gospel in which Jesus does not institute the Lord's supper at his last Passover with the disciples. At John's last supper Jesus gives himself to them in a different way. His washing of his disciples' feet is an enactment of his witness to the dominion of God: the first will be last; the lowly will be lifted up; whoever loves their life will lose it. This act of self-sacrifice, one which prefigures his death on the cross, is a living example of Jesus' countercultural definition of love, one which he passes on to the twelve and to us. Washed by Jesus in our baptisms, we too are blessed with and challenged by God's love in Christ and the command to share that sacrificial love with the whole world.