

Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024

7:00 p.m.





A Place to Belong

A Place to Become

As We Gather: With nightfall 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. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

Holy Communion is the gift of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation offered by Christ to believers. All are welcome to the table who trust in the Lord's promise. We believe that Christ is truly present in the Sacrament and that with the bread and wine we receive His Body and Blood.

Please note:

- ✠ Grape juice is available in the center glass and the glasses of the center ring.
- ✠ Kneeling at the Altar rail may be difficult for some. It is not mandatory. Please feel free to stand.
- ✠ If you are unable to come to the Altar, please notify an usher so the Sacrament can be brought to you.
- ✠ Communicants may receive the wine from individual cups or the Chalice.
- ✠ Children are encouraged to come forward for a blessing.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We Are Invited to Worship

PRELUDE

Prelude in G minor

J.S. Bach

Please Be Seated or Kneel

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

P 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 to 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 is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most Merciful God,
C **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.**

Please stand

P 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.
C **Amen.**

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C **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.**

Please Be Seated

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

1The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 2This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3Tell 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. 4If 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. 5Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. 7They 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 lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 9Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. 10You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11This 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. 12For 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. 13The 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.

14This 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.

A Word of God, Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Spoken responsively between Pastor and congregation by whole verses.

P I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice, and listened to my | supplication,

C: **for the LORD has given | ear to me whenever | er I called.**

P: How shall I re- | pay the LORD for all the good things God has | done for me?

C: **I will lift the cup | of salvation and call on the name | of the LORD.**

P: I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD in the presence of | all God's people.

C: **Precious in your | sight, O LORD, is the death | of your servants.**

P: O LORD, truly I | am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.

C: ***I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving and call upon the name | of the LORD.***

P: I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD in the presence of | all God's people,

C: **in the courts of | the LORD's house, in the midst of you, | O Jerusalem.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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.

A Word of God, Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please Be Seated

VOICES OF THE PASSION

During Lent and Holy Week, we revisit the story of Jesus' suffering and death as told from the perspective of various characters in the drama of Jesus' passion. As they speak to us, we will discover how their story is also our story. We were there. We participated. We are the ultimate beneficiaries of the greatest story ever told.

SERMON “Peter, the Disciple with Cold Feet”
Matthew 26:69-75

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY Go To Dark Gethsemane ELW 347
(st. 1-3)

APOSTLES CREED

P Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P In these holiest of days, we offer prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

A brief silence.

P Blessed are you, O Lord, for your endless grace and mercy. Like Peter, the disciple with cold feet, we deny you. We abandon you. We cowardly walk away from you. And when the cock crows, we are ashamed.

Forgive us. Renew us,
So that we can be faithful
And no longer disciples with cold feet. Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

P You hear us when we cry to you...
Today we cry out, "How long, O LORD?" for all those caught up in the war in Ukraine, Haiti, Gaza, and anywhere in our world where "justice is turned away, righteousness stands at a distance, and truth has stumbled in the public square." Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

A We pray for the church around the world. Write your new commandment of love on the heart of every believer and strengthen pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in humble service for your people. Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

P We pray for the good earth you have made. Protect fields, orchards, local farms, and gardens. Inspire us with the new life budding around us, that we show more care for plants and all living creatures. Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

P We pray for leaders in every land. Kindle compassion and equity in all who are called to administer justice. Guide all in positions of power away from the temptations of abuse and toward work for the common good. Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

P We pray for all who are in need, especially those who are incarcerated or unjustly accused. Illuminate paths to end oppression and form supportive communities gathered around a common commitment to justice and peace. Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

P We pray for this congregation and all who gather to receive your body and

blood this night. Fill us at this shared table and nourish us well to heed your example of grace. Send us in love to those who cannot be with us due to illness. Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

P We give thanks for those who have died in the faith. Teach us by their example and comfort us as we mourn. Renew us by the promise of life together with you. Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

P We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, 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."

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Please Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome at his table. There, they receive him and the new life he offers. Those who eat and drink at his table commit themselves to the care and redemption of all that God has made. If you are not baptized, contact Pastor Albertin to learn how you can receive the great gift God has for you in baptism. Today, you are welcome to join us at Christ's table.

HYMN (*sung during distribution*) Lamb of God

ELW 336

Please Stand

COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Lord Jesus,

C **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.**

SENDING

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The Altar, symbolic of the presence of Christ in our midst, is stripped to symbolically portray the indignities Jesus suffered at the hands of the Roman soldiers, specifically the stripping of His garments in the humiliation of His crucifixion (John 19:23-24). We remove the Altar's ornaments and clothing in remembrance of the violent deed. While the Altar is being stripped, the congregation may meditate on this Psalm quoted by our Lord on the cross.

1 My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?
 Why so far from saving me, so far from the words | of my groaning?
 2 My God, I cry out by day, but you | do not answer;
 by night, but I | find no rest.
 3 Yet you are the | Holy One,
 enthroned on the prais- | es of Israel.
 4 Our ancestors put their | trust in you,
 they trusted, and you | rescued them.
 5 They cried out to you and | were delivered;
 they trusted in you and were not | put to shame.
 6 But as for me, I am a worm | and not human,
 scorned by all and despised | by the people.
 7 All who see me laugh | me to scorn;
 they curl their lips; they | shake their heads.
 8 "Trust in the LORD; let the | LORD deliver;
 let God rescue him if God so de- | lights in him."
 9 Yet you are the one who drew me forth | from the womb,
 and kept me safe on my | mother's breast.
 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since | I was born;
 you were my God when I was still in my | mother's womb.
 11 Be not far from me, for trou- | ble is near,
 and there is no | one to help.
 12 Many young bulls en- | circle me;
 strong bulls of Ba- | shan surround me.
 13 They open wide their | jaws at me,
 like a slashing and | roaring lion.
 14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are | out of joint;
 my heart within my breast is | melting wax.
 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof |
 of my mouth;
 and you have laid me in the | dust of death.
 16 Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers | circles round me;
 they pierce my hands | and my feet.
 17 I can count | all my bones
 while they stare at | me and gloat.
 18 They divide my gar- | ments among them;
 for my clothing, | they cast lots.
 19 But you, O LORD, be not | far away;
 O my help, hasten | to my aid.
 20 Deliver me | from the sword,
 my life from the power | of the dog.

21 Save me from the | lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have | rescued me.
22 I will declare your name | to my people;
in the midst of the assembly | I will praise you.
23 You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give
glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

At the conclusion of the Psalm, please leave the Sanctuary in reverent silence.

Maundy Thursday

Many Christian theologians have taught that the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ must be held together to be adequately understood. Thus it was that since at least the fourth century, the Christianized Passover festival that English-speakers call Easter took three days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the first eucharist of Easter. The framers of the three-year lectionary judged that, with the church of the future resembling that of the fourth more than that of the nineteenth, a full restoration of the classic Three Days was appropriate. The liturgy of the Three Days begins on Maundy Thursday with an act of confession and absolution that concludes the season of Lent and prepares everyone for the baptismal renewals of Easter. Many churches are reviving the practice of the footwashing, reiterating Jesus' sign of communal love. "Mandatum," the "command" to love, is the source of the term Maundy. The eucharist recalls Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death. The lectionary's readings include both Paul's directions for the church's keeping of this meal and John's sign-and-discourse about the meaning of the meal. The service concludes with a stripping of the worship space of all adornment, in preparation for Good Friday.

Worship & Fellowship Opportunities

Good Friday Worship at 12:15 & 7:00 pm
Community Egg Hunt Saturday at 11:00 am
Easter Sunday Worship at 10:00 am with Easter Breakfast following