

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28, 2024

INTRODUCTION

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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 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.

All remain seated and keep silence 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.

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.

* OPENING HYMN

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

ELW #659

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

THE SERVANT SONG

Music: Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928

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*** GREETING**

P Christ has called us to this place,
gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit

C **We are followers of Christ
who seek to hear the Word,
live the Word,
and share the Word.**

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**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Chancel Choir

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

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.

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

I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

¹²How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³**I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**

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

¹⁵**Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

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

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

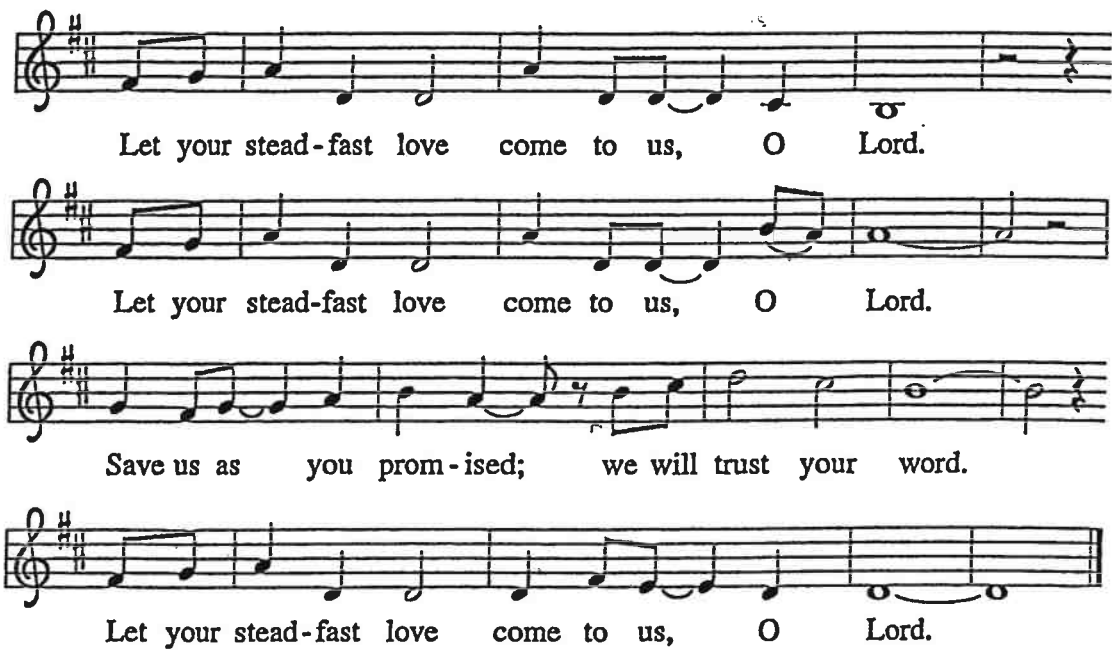
¹⁹**in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

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.

* GOSPEL VERSE



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

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

C **Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!**

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 another.

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 Thanks be to God!

SERMON


Pastor Sharon

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

ELW #708

Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
- 2 Neigh - bors are wealth - y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
- 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh - bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.
Music: Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin
Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

CHEREPONI
779 and refrain

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*** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 Trusting in Jesus who gave his life for the world, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

C Amen.

THE OFFERING



*** THE OFFERTORY**

“Create in Me”

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Welcome to the Feast of Holy Communion.(Gluten free wafers available, ask the Pastors)

We believe that in the sacrament Holy Communion, the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. All who trust in Jesus and call upon his name as Lord are invited to receive Holy Communion. Guests who are with us, who regularly commune in their home congregations, are also welcome. Children who have not yet been instructed in receiving the sacrament are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 testament in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

C I am not worthy to receive you, Lord;
but only say the Word and I shall be healed.

* LAMB OF GOD

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

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Bind Us Together"

WOV #748

Refrain
 F Dm Gm
 Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that
 can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,
 bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.
 2 You are the fam-'ly of God. You are the prom-ise di - vine.

There . . is on - ly one Bod-y; that . . is why we can sing:
 You are God's cho-sen de - sire, you are the glo-rious new wine.

Refrain

Text: Bob Gillman, b. 1946
 Music: Bob Gillman, b. 1946
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BIND US TOGETHER
 6 7 7 6 and refrain

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"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

ELW #461

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less - ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.

You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.

Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
 Music: W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
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HOLY MANNA
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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,
 strengthen us with the saving power
 of your suffering, death, and resurrection.
 Let this sacrament of your body and blood
 so work in us that the fruits of your redemption
 will show forth in our lives,
 for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR (During reading of Psalm 22)

All depart in silence.

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