

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 21, 2011, 7:00 pm

INTRODUCTION

With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death to life. 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.

PIANO PRELUDE: - W. Bradbury / J. Bennard
"Just As I Am/ The Old Rugged Cross"

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.

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.

The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn.

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

The person may respond:

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

L: 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.

C: Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1–8, 11b–14

L: The 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. ^{11b}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.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19



¹I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
²for He has given | ear to me
whenev- | er I called.

**¹²How shall I re- | pay the LORD
for all the good things He has | done for me?**

**¹³I 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 His people.

¹⁵Precious 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.**

**¹⁷I 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 His people,

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

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

P: 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.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE BREAD

The congregation will share the Body and Blood of Christ. In front of you will be bread and a cup of wine which you will give to the person next to you while saying:

C: "The Body of Christ, given for you."

Recipients may respond:

C: "Amen".

SHARING OF THE CUP

C: "The Blood of Christ, shed for you."

Recipients may respond:

C: "Amen".

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Let us pray for new life in the church, new hope for the world, and God's love for all who are in need.

Each portion of the prayers concludes with:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

P: We pray to you, O God, in the name of the one who endured the cross, forgives our sin, and feeds us at his table, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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.**

At this time, we will go upstairs into the nave as Christ went to the Garden of Gethsemane. We remember the events that occurred there! Those who cannot use the stairs may use the elevator.

An offering may be placed in the offering plates as we move to the sanctuary.

As you enter the nave, please take a place filling the front pews first on both sides.

***Hymn # 347: "Go to Dark Gethsemane"**

***THE HOLY GOSPEL**

John 13:21-35

²¹Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²²The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. ²³One of his disciples — the one whom Jesus loved — was reclining next to him; ²⁴Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." ²⁸Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "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 PRAYER

P: O God, we are very thankful to you for bringing us together this evening so we could celebrate Passover with Jesus. Thank you for forgiving our sins, but we are a little confused about Jesus's words about His Body and Blood! Help us to believe and understand. Now that we are here in the Garden of Gethsemane we are reminded of the Garden of Eden and its beauty and peacefulness. We pray for Jesus. He seems so distressed. Jesus asked us to pray with him, but we are so tired after a long day! May His Name be praised above all names!

C: Amen

THE HYMN: "Stay Here"

The Song Leader will start by singing this hymn alone. Then the Song Leader will repeat the hymn five more times. Please join in singing the hymn.

Stay Here

Chord symbols for the first system: F, Am, Dm, C, F, B^b, F, C.

Chord symbols for the second system: B^b, A, Dm, C, F, B^b, C, F.

THE PRAYER

P: O God, we come to this place, as Jesus came to the Garden of Gethsemane. We pray in thanks for the meal that we have shared with Jesus our Lord and Master. We thank you for the gift of love Jesus shows to us in this meal. Jesus prayed to You but we tend to fall asleep. We ask for your forgiveness for our lack of attention to conversation with you. Be with us now as we symbolically witness and take part in the events that took place in the garden and after. As we remove the glorifying articles from the chancel, let us remember the night that Jesus was arrested, humiliated, stripped of all respect and honor, and mocked in trial and found, somehow, guilty. In Your Name we pray.

C: Amen

The Stripping of the Altar

The stripping of the altar prepares our chancel for the Good Friday liturgy. As the altar is stripped we recall the humiliation that our Lord suffered this night. Jesus was stripped of his power. God's love was mocked by the powers of this world. During this portion of the service the familiar words of Psalm 22 will be chanted. It's believed that these are the words that rang in Jesus' heart and mind as he died.

The stripping of the altar should be prayerfully observed. We cannot avoid the pain and the cross. At the conclusion of the psalm and stripping of the altar, the service ends in silence. Please be quiet as you leave for the sake of those who might want to remain to pray.



Scripture and Prayer: Carl Tobias, Vicar Tina Toburen, Reverend
Timothy Craven

Ushers: Council Members

Piano: Nancy Hain