



Maundy Thursday

April 17, 2025 7:00 pm

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.

PRELUDE & SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP John 13:34

P: Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."

C: This he said to his disciples, after washing their feet and having supper with them.

P: Tonight we remember that night and those words.

C: Above all, we remember his breaking of the bread and his pouring of the wine, symbols of his imminent death.

P: O God, let this service of remembrance sober us of any illusions we may have about our own courage and faithfulness.

C: Help us to realize our entire dependence on his courage, his faithfulness, his forgiveness.

P: With contrite hearts, let us hail the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,

C: through whose sacrifice for us we are pardoned and healed. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION (Water is poured into the font.)

P: Jesus said, "One who has bathed does not need to wash." In our baptism, we have been bathed by the grace of God. Trusting in the steadfast love of Jesus Christ, who has delivered us from sin and death, let us confess our sin.

CONFESSION

P: Lord Jesus, how well you know our hearts

C: and still you love us, you have loved us to the end.

P: We have denied you,

C: and we have denied our calling to serve one another.

P: We have betrayed you,

C: and we have betrayed your commandment to love one another.

P: Pour out your Spirit of grace upon us.

C: Teach us to love and serve you faithfully and to love and serve one another by the example you have set for us; in your holy name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

P: Now the Lord Jesus Christ has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.

Now the promise is fulfilled, and love's redeeming work is done; in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

C: Thanks be to God.

GATHERING HYMN

Join We Now in Celebration

ELW 462

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

When I Survey

Immanuel Choir

FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1-14

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.

Reader. The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Luke 22:7-20

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it."

⁹ They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" ¹⁰ He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters ¹¹ and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹² And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." ¹³ And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him.

¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

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.

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 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." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."

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? You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things; you are blessed if you do them." Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

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.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

By 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.**

PASTOR'S HOMILY

Pastor Nathan Feig

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

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 was 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: United by the servant love of God in Christ, we pray this holy night for the needs of the world. You call your people to hand on what we receive from you. Form all the baptized into teachers of faith. From one generation to the next, give your church hunger for your promises in the sacraments and joy in receiving and sharing your word.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your creation provides all that we need. Cleanse and protect the water you have given for washing and drinking, water on which all life depends. Sustain crops and herds that provide food; teach us how to live so that there is enough for all.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You redeemed your people from slavery. Preserve people throughout the world who flee violence and oppression. Establish just leadership in place of tyranny and peace in place of war.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus loved his followers to the end. Grant assurance of that love to all who need it: those living with guilt, those struggling to forgive, those who are lonely or overlooked. Heal the sick and embrace the dying.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus washed the feet of the one who betrayed him. Inspire this congregation's ministries of service, that we love as Jesus loved us. Give us renewed courage to serve. Bless the ministry of deacons throughout the church.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your glory shone in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We thank you for generations of the faithful who have proclaimed our Lord's death.

Unite us with them in hope until he comes again.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: In recognition of God's forgiveness, mercy and grace let us continue with the Great Thanksgiving.

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, who on the third day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and thank you for your glory due to Your name. Amen.

WORDSOF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

In the night in which he was handed over to be put to death,
our Lord Jesus took the bread, and gave thanks; by saying,

*Bah-rookh ah-tah ah-doh-noi eh-loh-hay-noo meh-lekh hah-oh-lahm
hah-moh-tzee leh-khehm meen hah-ah-rehtz,*

which means *Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth*, 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, by saying,

*“Bah-rookh ah-tah ah-doh-noi eh-loh-hay-noo meh-lekh hah-oh-lahm
boh-ray pi-ree hah-gah-fehn.”*

Which means, “Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine 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: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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, taste, and see, that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray together: 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.

After He had instituted the Sacrament of His body and blood, fewer than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Jesus and the eleven disciples went out to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He knew Judas would come to set in motion the events leading to His crucifixion. That night, Jesus was taken from their presence, and most of the disciples did not see Him again until He appeared among them Easter evening. All the ornamentations in the chancel are symbols of our Lord. This evening, they are stripped from the altar – taken from our sight.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

As Psalm 22 is read, the chancel is stripped.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

"Commit your cause to the LORD;

let him deliver let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

Yet it was you who took me from the womb;

you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me

you have been my God.

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

Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me.
My hands and feet have shriveled;
I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.
But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!
Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!
Save me from the mouth of the lion!
From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters in the midst of the
congregation I will praise you:
You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For 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.
From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.
To 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.
Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the LORD,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

When the psalm is completed, all may depart in silence.

There is no benediction this evening.

The service will continue with Good Friday liturgy tomorrow evening at 7:00 pm