

Maundy Thursday
April 9, 2020, 7:00 pm



MAUNDY *Thursday*

Welcome to Our Savior's Lutheran Church!

We are “a worshipping and caring Christian community, sharing God's compassion and grace with all people in need of love and acceptance within this congregation, the community, and the world!”

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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.

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of love and mercy,

You know the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts; you know our coming in and our going out. We confess to you all our sins—those things done and left undone. We have not loved one another as you have loved us. We have not served others as you have served us. Hear our cry, O Lord. Accept our repentance. Cleanse us, restore us, and lead us that we may love and serve in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was sent to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

(You are invited to come forward to the communion rail to receive individual absolution if you wish.)

GATHERING HYMN

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!”
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909

Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

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

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. A reading from Exodus.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ¹This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ²Tell 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. ³If 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. ⁴Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁵You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁶They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁷They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁸Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ⁹You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹⁰This 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. ¹¹For 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. ¹²The 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. ¹³This 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

(read responsively)

Psalms 116:1–2, 12–19

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

²for 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?

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 God's 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 God's people,

¹⁹in 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. A reading from 1 Corinthians.

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



GOSPEL RESPONSE

The holy gospel according to the 13th chapter of John. **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 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. 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

On the night before he died, Jesus gathered with his disciples for a last supper. And it was during this meal that Jesus took bread and wine and gave them to his disciples along with the words, "This is my body,

given for you,” and “This is my blood, shed for you.” And he told them to continue to do this in remembrance of him.

And on that same night, according to John, Jesus also washed his disciples’ feet. And after he had finished washing them, he asked the disciples a question—a question which, as it happens, is important for all of us, too. He asked them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”

Though John doesn’t tell us how the disciples responded to this question, it’s easy enough to imagine how they might have. They would have responded eagerly, eager to please, to say the right thing, and lacking in self restraint. “Yes, Lord, we understand,” they might’ve said. “Of course, Lord, we know. It was all clear as crystal.”

But how could they possibly understand, when at that moment they had no idea of what was coming the next day? How could they know, when they had yet to see how far Jesus would go?

But are we really any better? Can we honestly say that we know what it means when Jesus washes feet?

At least we could talk a good game. We would like to believe that we understand. And we can all probably talk about service—how this footwashing thing means that we’ve got to serve one another, that we’ve got to love one another.

But that’s only part of the story. And in the end, maybe all we really know is how difficult it is to have one’s own feet washed by someone else. In most cases, getting someone to agree to have their feet washed during a church service is not always so easy. And with good reason. After all, it’s embarrassing, and it’s kind of demeaning, and it kind of makes us feel uncomfortable. And so we resist it.

And what about communion? Do we truly understand what Jesus is doing when we come up here and kneel at this rail and someone puts a little piece of bread in our hand and someone else holds out a tray with all these little cups of wine? Do we really understand what we are receiving?

Again, we would like to believe that we do. At least it’s not hard to get people to come up for communion. And we can all probably say something more or less meaningful about body and blood and blessings. But when all is said and done, how much of all this do we really understand?

What I think it all comes down to is summed up very neatly in the last words of tonight’s gospel: “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” Now when we hear that, we tend to get stuck on the “love one another” part. But notice that the sentence begins with, “Just as I have loved you.” So it all begins with Jesus’ love. Jesus loves us first, and then we can go and love one another. But if we haven’t experienced Jesus’ love for ourselves, it can be awfully hard to love someone else.

And who in their right mind wouldn’t want to experience Jesus’ love? Well, actually, we would. Peter and Judas in tonight’s gospel story are two excellent examples of how we often resist Jesus’ offer of love. Because it’s embarrassing, and it’s kind of demeaning, and it kind of makes us feel uncomfortable. Sometimes, we would rather not have the greater meaning of our life come down to the fact that he loves us. We would rather have it on our own terms.

But that is exactly what Jesus is saying when he washes his disciples’ feet. It’s an incredible statement of his love for them—a love that he would continue to show for them the very next day, when he went to the cross. And this is the deep, profound meaning behind communion: that Jesus loves us, and that Jesus wants to come in to our lives. And that love is so intense, so pure, that it’s no wonder that sometimes we shy away from it.

The good news tonight is that his grace is irresistible. And that means that he never gives up on us. And so he will be forever coming around with that basin and that towel, to try and wash our feet. He will be forever giving us this bread and wine, his body and blood.

And that was enough for the disciples. They ate and they drank. They even had their feet washed, though some of them had to be talked into it. And they did these things even though they didn’t fully understand what was happening.

And so it is with us. Tonight, we will wash a few feet. And moments from now, we will celebrate the Lord’s Supper, in remembrance of him.

But tonight and in the days ahead, let us pray that he will give us the grace and the strength to really hear his words: I’m doing this for you. And let us also pray that he will give us the grace and the strength to take the most extreme risk of all: the risk of letting Jesus love us first. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”

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: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

FOOTWASHING

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 feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As Jesus calls us to love one another, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church: Gather us together through your love. Heal the divisions holding us apart, especially at your table. Unite us in our common mission to be your servants in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth: Sustain all living creatures with seasonable weather and suitable environments. Protect fragile habitats from harm. Bless farmers, ranchers, and gardeners whose labors bring food to our tables. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations: Lead all in authority to work for peace and justice. Bring an end to oppression. Heal nations and communities torn apart by violence and fear. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need: Fill the tables of the hungry. Comfort those who know the pain of betrayal, and all who suffer from grief or illness, especially those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, one last time we ask you to be with us and to fulfill every prayer that we make to you through our prayer cross. Help us to trust in your care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For this assembly: Bless those who guide us in worship and those who lead us into the world to serve in your name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. Bring us to the fullness of your promise of resurrection and eternal life in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

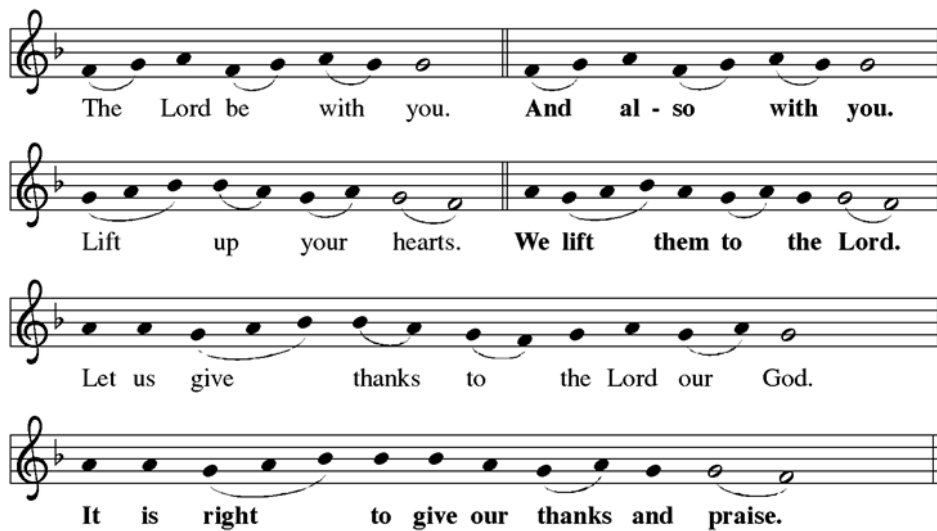
Meal

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, you provide us with every gift of creation, and you quench our thirst with living water. Receive these expressions of your goodness to us. May our lives be bread for the hungry and streams in the wilderness, signs of the abundance of your grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



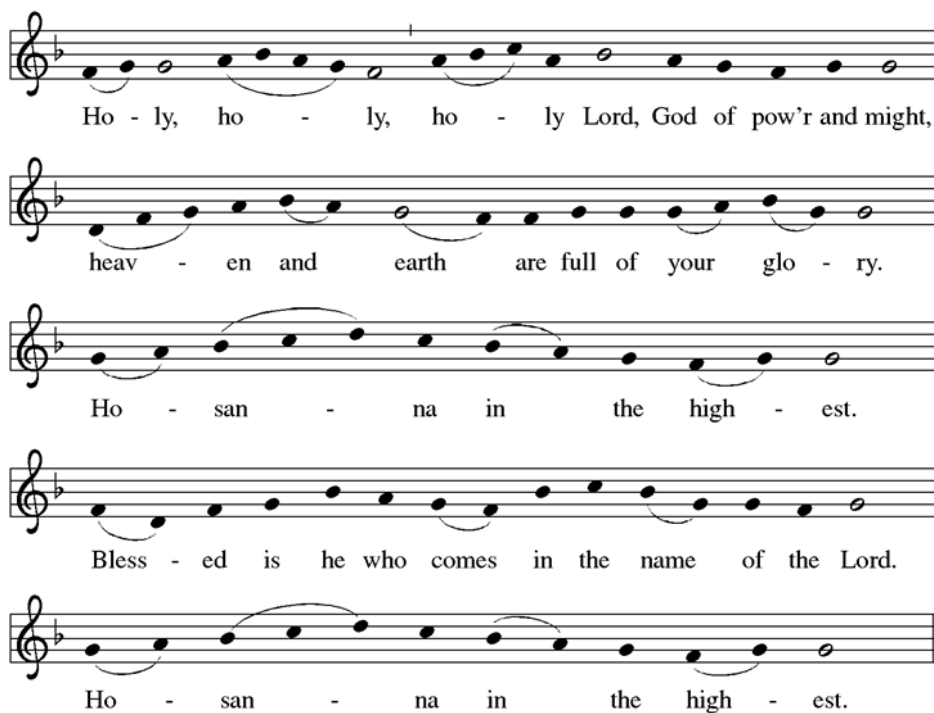
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.
A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

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

Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

"Lamb of God"

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. A - men.

"Now the Silence"

Refrain



We hold the death of the Lord deep in our hearts.



Liv-ing, now we re-main with Je-sus the Christ.



1 Once we were peo-ple a - fraid, lost in the night. Then by your



cross we were saved; dead be-came liv-ing, life from your giv-ing.

Refrain



2 Some-thing that we have known, some-thing we've touched, what we have



seen with our eyes, this we have heard: life-giv-ing Word.

Refrain



3 He chose to give of him - self, be-came our bread; bro-ken,



that we might live; love be-yond love, pain for our pain.

Refrain



4 We are the pres-ence of God; this is our call;



now to be-come bread and wine, food for the hun-gry, life for the



wea-ry; for to live with the Lord, we must die with the Lord.

Refrain

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

Music: NOW WE REMAIN, David Haas

Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

(Please remain seated)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Psalm 22

You are invited to remain for a time of prayer and meditation following the service. Please depart in silence.

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS002168. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Music and words reprinted by permission under OneLicense.Net, annual license A-711838. All rights reserved. Lenten Gospel Acclamation—©St. James Music Press and Thomas Pavlechko, 2017. sjmp.com. Licensed permission to photocopy granted.