



***Maundy Thursday
St. John's Lutheran Church
March 28 2024***

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.

*(Please be aware that as we stream this service to a live audience you may appear on camera when you are worshiping with us. We welcome those who attend online and are part of our worshipping community! Please respond with the words in bold print and stand, as you are able at the places marked with an *.)*

Prelude

Welcome

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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

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.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

**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.**

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.

Amen.

***Gathering Song....."Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now" ACS #930**

1 Three ho - ly days en - fold us now in wash - ing
 2 The mys - t'ry hid from a - ges past is here re -
 3 Christ, lift - ed high up - on the tree, be - fore you

feet and break - ing bread, in cross and font and
 vealed in word and sign, for Je - sus' sto - ry
 ev - 'ry knee shall bend and ev - 'ry tongue in

life re - newed: in Christ, God's first - born from the dead.
 is our own: new life through death is God's de - sign.
 praise pro - claim: "You are the Lord of all. A - men."

***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**

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.

Reading: Exodus 12:1-4, 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.

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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music.....Frederick Frey, baritone

“Eye Hath Not Seen” by Alfred Gaul

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."

³¹⁶"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."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon.....Pastor Ken DuVall

Silence for reflection follows the sermon

***Hymn of the Day”Where Charity and Love Prevail” ELW #359**

**Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear,
God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.**

**Let us recall that in our midst
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are made one.**

**Let strife among us be unknown;
let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.**

**Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.**

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.

During the foot washing please join in singing meditative music from the community of Taizé:

“Ubi caritas et amor”

*Where true charity and love abide,
God is dwelling there; God is dwelling there.*

***Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.***

Sanctuary Choir Anthem: “Be with Me” by Marty Haugen

“Stay with Me”

***Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray.
Watch and pray.***

***Blessing for Maundy Thursday**

O God of love, as your Son washed the feet of his disciples, he revealed his undying love that would lead him to the cross. May this simple act be a sign of our love for one another, and our call to serve our neighbors and all those in need, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

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

***Prayer Response**

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Response at the conclusion of the prayers of intercession: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

As Christ welcomed everyone, let us open our hearts and lives and be like Christ to everyone we meet. The peace of the Lord be with you,
And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say **Peace be with you** or similar words. Then the assembly is seated.*

Offering

Tonight our offering will be gathered at the back of the sanctuary for Helena Food Share for Kids Packs.

***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.

***Words of Institution**

Blessed are you, O god of the universe...

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

***Lords 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**

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

(We celebrate open communion and all who are baptized are welcome to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.)

Communion Anthem.....St. John’s Sanctuary Choir
“ Our Blessing Cup”, Marty Haugen

Communion Hymn..... “Eat This Bread”, ELW #472
Choir sings verses and congregation joins on the refrain.

Refrain

**"Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst."**

Prayer After Communion

Lord Jesus, 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.**

Stripping of the Altar

Psalm 88

¹O LORD, God of my salvation,
when, at night, I cry out in your presence,
²let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry.
³For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.

⁴I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;
I am like those who have no help,
⁵like those forsaken among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.
⁶You have put me in the depths of the Pit,
in the regions dark and deep.
⁷Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.

Selah

⁸You have caused my companions to shun me;
you have made me a thing of horror to them.
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
⁹my eye grows dim through sorrow.
Every day I call on you, O LORD;
I spread out my hands to you.
¹⁰Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the shades rise up to praise you?

Selah

¹¹Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
¹²Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?
¹³But I, O LORD, cry out to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
¹⁴O LORD, why do you cast me off?
Why do you hide your face from me?
¹⁵Wretched and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.
¹⁶Your wrath has swept over me;
your dread assaults destroy me.
¹⁷They surround me like a flood all day long;
from all sides they close in on me.
¹⁸You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me;
my companions are in darkness.

Exit in Silence

Ministering in Worship Today

Rev. Ken DuVall, Preaching

Rev. Keith Weatherford, Presiding

Robin Matthews, LPA and Mary Crosby, LPA, Assisting Ministers

Angela Conley, Technology and Sound

Dodie Walsh, Organ

Connie Conley, Choir Director

Frederick Frey and Gretchen Mundinger, Cantors

Nicole Evans, Oboe

Barb Muir, Annette Jacobson, Laura Nachtsheim, Darcie Dunlap-Altar Guild

Holy Week Schedule at St John's

Friday, March 29th: Good Friday with New Life at New Life at 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 31st: Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 am

Festival Easter Worship at 9:30 am

Brunch hosted by the Youth following 9:30 worship

Holy Week Schedule at New Life

Sunday, March 31st: Easter Service at 9:30 am

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