

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, AMHERST, OHIO

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020

7:00 PM

ON THE NIGHT HE WAS BETRAYED, Jesus took a towel, washed His disciples' feet and commanded them to do likewise. He also took bread and a cup of wine. He gave thanks to His Father and then gave them to His disciples. Jesus told them that this really is His body and blood given to strengthen their faith, forgive their sins, and reaffirm in them that He was the one who gave eternal life.

On Maundy Thursday (Maundy from the Latin word "Mandatum" meaning "command") we remember the new command of Jesus to love, honor, and humbly serve one another as Jesus did us.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

Heavenly Father, today is a special day for me and for all Christians. Today we remember how Jesus began His suffering by gathering His disciples together in the Upper Room. There He celebrated the Passover deliverance from Egypt, which He would fulfill over the next three days by delivering me from sin, death, and hell. There Jesus gave His disciples His Body and Blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion which strengthens my faith and sets me free from my sin and guilt. There Jesus gave His disciples an example and the commandment to love others as You have loved us. Help me to love as Christ loves – selflessly, sacrificially, and joyfully. Work in me to form my heart and life to become more and more like Jesus. Amen.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

PASTOR'S WELCOME

INVOCATION (spoken responsively)

Pastor: In the name of the giving Father and of the serving ✠ Son
and of the guiding Holy Spirit. Amen.

On the night He was to be betrayed, Jesus rose from supper, took
a towel, wrapped it around His waist, and washed His disciples'
feet.

Come to worship Him today, on this Maundy Thursday, to
remember His humble service, and to be strengthened to be
servants like Him.

HYMN *"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"* LSB 440, vss. 1-4

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death
That I may not perish.**

- 2 Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.**

**3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known
And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
Of Your crucifixion.**

**4 Grant that I Your passion view
With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?**

CONFESSING OUR SINFULNESS

P: When Jesus took the towel, at first Peter refused to have Jesus wash his feet. Like Peter, don't you also, in your pride and self-righteousness, often refuse the humble, servant-like approach of Jesus, as He invites you to come and let Him wash your sin clean in His forgiveness?

C: Lord Jesus, forgive my conceit and self-righteousness.

P: When Jesus asks you to take up the towel to serve others, do you often refuse? Do you often consider serving other people's needs as too unpleasant, too repugnant, to menial for someone as high as yourself?

**By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son,
God must have compassion!**

**6 Graciously my faith renew;
Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing Your praise forever.**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, You became a servant, and commanded us to respond in service to You by humbly serving others. Give us, we pray, a stronger faith and love that we may serve You without ceasing. You live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ISAIAH 53: 1-9

Jesus fulfills the ancient prophecy of a lowly servant who will suffer and die to bear the punishment our sins deserve.

¹Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,

and no beauty that we should desire him.
³He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
⁴Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.
⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?
⁹And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

P: This is the word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 2: 1-11

Christ's example of humility.

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

ANTHEM *"These Things Are True of You"* by Tommy Walker

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDDpD_BmK_4

GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 13:1-17, 34-35

John's gospel describes Maundy Thursday's foot washing event when Jesus illustrated the meaning of His servant love and demonstrated what it means to truly love one another.

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said, "No, you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." Simon Peter replied, "Then, Lord, not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them..." "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one

another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

STATEMENT OF FAITH (SPOKEN BY ALL)

We believe in God, the creator and Preserver of all things, who brings forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart; who sent forth His Son.

We believe in His Son, Jesus, the Christ, who took the form of a servant, was born on this earth and was present among us, who poured out His Blood for the forgiveness of our sin and gave us His Holy Supper that we might continue to receive His gracious presence, who will come again to bring us forever to Himself in heaven.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, Creator and Preserver of faith in our hearts, who keeps the Church of Jesus Christ united with Him and each other, who comes to us in Word and Sacrament.

In the Triune God we believe, and it is this God who empowers our service and receives our love. Amen.

HYMN *"Christ, the Life of all the Living"* LSB 420 vss. 1,6,7

**1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.**

**Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**6 Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.**

**7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.**

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SERMON

"SERVED BY THE BEST!"

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

O Prince of Peace, O Friend of Sinners,
we praise you and give you thanks,
because you laid aside your power as You laid aside Your
garment, and took upon yourself the form of a slave.

You became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

You allowed yourself to be born to die in our place,
You allowed your own feet to be anointed for death.
You allowed a sinner to wash your feet with her tears.
For God chose what is low and despised in the world
to bring to nothing things that are.

O Eternal Father, thank You for giving us our brother Jesus,
who on that night before Passover,
rose from the Supper, laid aside his garments
took a towel and poured water,
and washed his disciples' feet, saying to them:
"If I, your Lord and Teacher,
have washed your feet,
you also ought to wash one another's feet.
If you know these things,
blessed are you if you do them."

Come now, mighty Spirit of God,
wash us and make us one body in Christ,
that, as we are bound together
in this act of love,
we may no longer be in bondage
to the principalities and powers that enslave creation,
but may know your liberating peace
such as the world cannot give. Amen. *(inspired by John 13: 1-20)*

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

THE PASSION OF JESUS

LUKE 22:39-54

Jesus and His disciples leave the Upper Room and go to the Garden of Gethsemane. There Jesus prays, He is arrested, and His disciples are scattered as He is led to His suffering and crucifixion.

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour--when darkness reigns."

Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance.

HYMN

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

LSB 436, vss.1-3

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

- 2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.**

- 3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

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THE BLESSING

P: Keep in mind that Jesus Christ gave His body and blood for you.
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE