

Maundy Thursday

April 1, 2021



You are welcome to light a candle as we gather for worship.

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard about struggling in the wilderness as we look for Jesus. Sometimes we get in our own way and act in ways that keep 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.

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.**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

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. 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.

A Reading from Psalm 116

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

2for the Lord has given | ear to me
whenev- | er I called.

12How shall I re- | pay 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.

A Reading from the Epistles — 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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.

Gospel — John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The Gospel of John, the 13th chapter.
Glory to you, O God.

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.”

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 our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn — from the hymnal *All Creation Sings*

“Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now”



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.”

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

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Affirmation of Faith — Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

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.**

Offering

Please remember to give financially to support our ministry.

You can write a check and mail it to the church office or give online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

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

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

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,

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.

Pastoral Prayer for Maundy Thursday

Gracious God,
As those who strive to follow Jesus in our living
and to trust your power in our dying,
we gather to reflect upon the life that ended on a cross.

We recognize in ourselves the strengths and weaknesses of Jesus' disciples:
although they loved him, they disappointed and failed him.

And yet, gathering with these imperfect friends at this last meal
Jesus washed their feet in service, and then
extended the bread and cup to each.
Jesus called them to love one another, and invited them to share in his very life
and in his acceptance of the road ahead.

We are humbled, honored and inspired
by the deep love Christ extended to the world,
and we take seriously the calling to be the body of Christ today.

Forgive us when we disappoint and fail you,
and guide us back to a place of trust and faithful living.

Grant us the vision to see the world as you see it,
with love and compassion for each creature and all of your creation.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray to you:

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Communion

*Please raise your bread up. The body of Christ given for you. Please eat the bread now.
Please raise up your glass. The blood of Christ shed for you. Please drink the wine/juice now.*

Communion Blessing

Announcements

A Sending for Maundy Thursday

This night is our calling to go into the world,
scattered to the ends of the earth
to love as Christ loved
and serve in the name of Christ.
It is our calling to remember,

even in our darkest hour,
who we are.
We remember that Christ is always with us.
And we remember that on this night,
we were taught how to love.
On this night, eternity begins
and the fullness of God's Reign begins to spill into our lives.
So go into the world to give yourself for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Go into the world and love
in the name of the One who loved you until the end.
It all begins and ends and begins again with Love.
That IS the story. Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

*It is traditional to depart a Maundy Thursday service in silence.
Feel free to remain in quiet prayer and reflection, and extinguish your candle before leaving Zoom.
The service continues tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. with Good Friday Stations of the Cross.*

Acknowledgements

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"Pastoral Prayer for Maundy Thursday" by Rev. Kelly Burd, posted at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-ways/>

"A Sending for Maundy Thursday" written by Rev. Shelli Williams, in Benediction. Posted on the website of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas. <http://www.stpaulshouston.org/>

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