

Maundy Thursday



I give you a new commandment: love one another as I loved you

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday we remember the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples. At that meal Jesus shocked his followers by acting out the role of the servant, kneeling down to wash their feet. Tonight we re-create those actions of a simple meal and washing feet. The word "Maundy" is derived from the Latin translation of John 13:34 (mandatum novum – "a new commandment") which is read at the ceremonial washing of the feet.

It is important to be aware of what the washing of the feet symbolizes. The ceremony is taken from the example that Jesus set when he washed the feet of his disciples (John 13:3-17). This action not only recalls the servant ministry of Jesus, but is also a vivid reminder of the ministry of service to which our Lord calls each of us. That ministry of serving our brothers and sisters is aptly summed up in the words of Jesus, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

Our service tonight begins the "sacred three days" (in Latin - Triduum Sacrum) that commemorate the death and resurrection of our Lord. While we have separate services for these three days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter – it should be recognized that they encompass one complex event rather than a number of separated ones. This is structured into the services in that beginning with our service tonight, no service has a "Dismissal" until the Easter Vigil. Thus what we are doing is celebrating an extended liturgy from Thursday evening until the Easter services.

After our sacred meal in communion with Jesus and with one another, we anticipate Friday's sober reality.

The Stripping of the Altar is an ancient ritual performed at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service in preparation for Good Friday. It is at once functional, performative, and symbolic. We remove the decorations of our worship and are left with the barrenness of the cross of Good Friday. In our actions of taking away, we remember Jesus' desolation in the Garden of Gethsemane as his closest friends fell asleep and one follower betrayed him; we anticipate the humility and mockery of Jesus in his passion; we begin to imagine a world without the one who days before was greeted with shouts of "Hosanna". Finally, we wash the altar, remembering Jesus' washing of his disciples' feet, and the washing of Jesus' body at his death. In our quiet ritual of stripping away all that embellishes our space, we take this time as a community to pare down our own lives through prayer and meet the Holy One in faithfulness and love.

Agapé Meal

Agapé is the Greek word for love, and the fellowship meals of the early church were often referred to by the name “agapé,” or “love feast.” After the beginning of our service together, you are encouraged to eat a simple meal at home, while music continues from the sanctuary. Whether with family or joining together with others through Zoom, the meal is meant to be simple and reflective, just enough and not more. You can share in blessing the meal with these traditional prayers.

Things to gather on your table:

Simple food and drink

Candles

A cross

An icon, or other adornments that draw you towards God

A bowl, a large pitcher of water, and towels

As you begin your meal, offer prayers for what is set before you:

Blessing over the Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and you have fed us on our way with the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. Let us be fed again soon with that bread of life. And as grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen

Blessing over other Food

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen

Blessing Over The Cup

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Christ, Mighty Savior



1. Christ, might - y Sa - vior, Light of all cre - a - tion,
 2. Now comes the day's end as the sun is set - ting:
 3. There - fore we come now ev - ening rites to of - fer,
 4. Give heed, we pray you, to our sup - pli - ca - tion:
 5. Though bod - ies slum - ber, hearts shall keep their vig - il,



you make the day - time ra - diant with the sun - light
 mir - ror of day - break, pledge of re - sur - rec - tion;
 joy - ful - ly chant - ing ho - ly hymns to praise - you,
 that you may grant us par - don for of - fens - es,
 for ev - er rest - ing in the peace of Je - sus,



and to the night give glit - ter - ing a - dorn - ment,
 while in the heav - ens choirs of stars ap - pear - ing
 with all cre - a - tion join - ing hearts and voic - es
 strength for our weak hearts, rest for ach - ing bod - ies,
 in light or dark - ness wor - ship - ing our Sa - vior



stars in the heav - ens.
 hal - low the night - fall.
 sing - ing your glo - ry.
 sooth - ing the wea - ry.
 now and for ev - er.

words: Christe, lux mundi; Mozarabic Rite, 10th C.; tr. by Alan G. McDougall, rev. by Anne K. LeCroy and others
music: Based upon NICEA

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Presider Jesus said, "The first commandment is this:
 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord.
 Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
 with all your soul, with all your mind,
 and with all your strength.
 The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.
 There is no other commandment greater than these."
Mark 12:29-31

Presider May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in our hearts, in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

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

This 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Agape meal: at home, or by Zoom

Instrumental music continues from the sanctuary

After a simple meal, in about 20 minutes, we continue with our service.

Second Reading

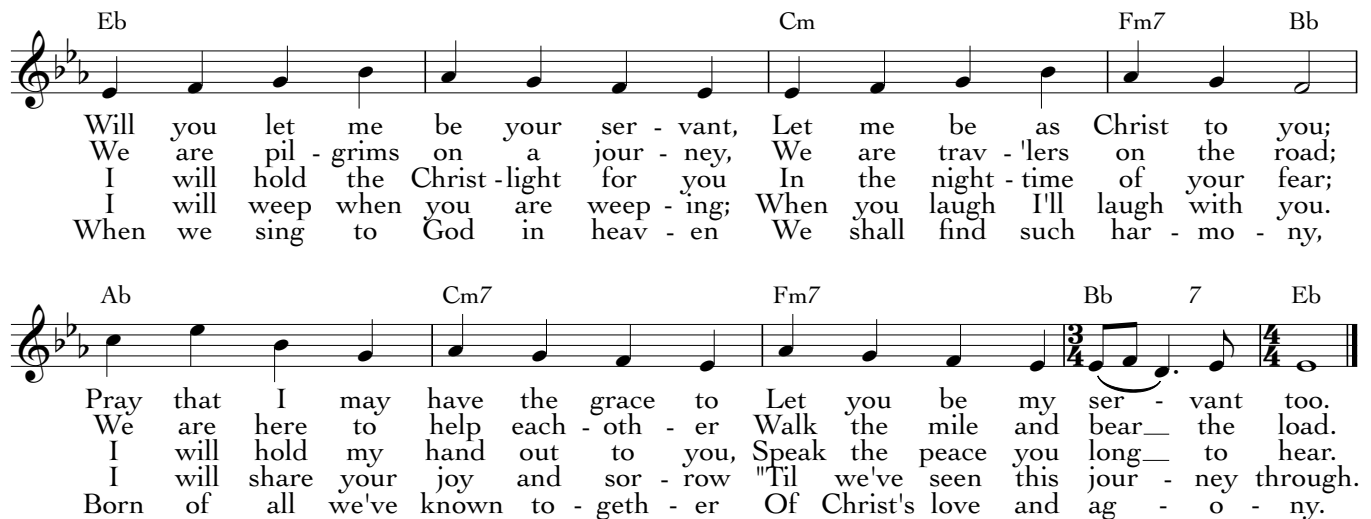
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In 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." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

Will you let me be your servant



Will you let me be your ser - vant, Let me be as Christ to you;
We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, We are trav - 'lers on the road;
I will hold the Christ - light for you In the night - time of your fear;
I will weep when you are weep - ing; When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
When we sing to God in heav - en We shall find such har - mo - ny,
Pray that I may have the grace to Let you be my ser - vant too.
We are here to help each - oth - er Walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, Speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row 'Til we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er Of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

Richard Hillard

Repeat vs. 1

The Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

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.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Homily The Rev. Liz Tichenor

You are invited to join in a time of silence and reflection following the sermon.

Song

Peace is my last gift to you

Antiphon

Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace
I now leave with you; peace which the
world can-not give I give to you.

Verse

I give you a new com - mand - ment:
Love one another as I have loved you. [Ant.]

Setting: Plainsong, Mode 6; adapt. David Hurd (b. 1950).
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Presider

**Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ:
On the night before his death,
Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet,
and act of humble service.
He taught that strength and growth
in the life of the Reign of God
come not by power, authority, or even miracle,
but by such lowly service.**

**Therefore I invite you,
who share in the royal priesthood of Christ,
to join together in recalling whose servants we are
by following the example of our Lord.**

**Remember that what will be done for you
you are also called to do for others,
for 'servants are not greater than their master,
nor are those who are sent greater than those who sent them.
If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.'**



Wherever you are, whether you are with others or by yourself this night, take time to offer care through this ritual of foot washing. You may offer it to another person, or you may choose to wash your own feet, remembering that Jesus teaches us that we must love ourselves if we are to love others. All of us stand in need of this sacred care.

Music

Ubi Caritas

Taize

quite slow, legato

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor, u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

Where true love and charity dwell, God indeed is there.

Prayers of the People

Our prayers this night are adapted from the work of Gail Ramshaw and Gordon Lathrop, prepared for Resurrection Lutheran Church, Arlington, Virginia, and made available for sharing.

United with Christians around the globe on this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the church, the earth, our troubled world, and all in need, responding to each petition with the words, *your mercy is great.*

Silence

Blessed are you, holy God, for the church. Gather all the baptized around your presence in the Word. Strengthen the body of your people even when we cannot assemble for worship. Grant Bishop Marc and all our clergy faithfulness and creativity for their ministry in this time, and accompany those preparing for baptism.

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

Silence

Blessed are you, bountiful God, for this good earth and for the flowering of springtime. Save dry lands from destructive droughts. Protect the waters from pollution. Allow in this time the planting of fields for food. Make us into caregivers of your plants and animals.

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

Silence

Blessed are you, sovereign God, for our nation. Inspire all people to live in peace and concord. Grant wisdom and courage to heads of state and to legislators as they face the coronavirus. Lead our elected officials to champion the cause of the vulnerable.

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

Silence

Blessed are you, faithful God, for you accompany suffering humanity with love. Abide wherever Covid-19 has struck. Visit all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. Support physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organization.

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

Silence

Blessed are you, gracious God, for you care for the needy. We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. Especially we pray for those on our parish prayer list, and for those we name before you now.

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

Silence

Blessed are you, loving God, that your Son knelt before us, your unworthy servants. Preserve our lives, comfort our anxiety, and receive now the petitions of our hearts.

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

Silence

Blessed are you, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith, Joyce Gray, Chris Leveque, John Motley, and those whom we name before you now.

At the end, bring us with them into your everlasting glory.

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

Silence

Presider Receive, merciful God, our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the host of our meal of life, who died and rose that we might live with you, now and forever. Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Presider As we join our hearts together, let us say together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

People **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, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Stripping of our Homes and the Altar

Music

Philip Glass Metamorphosis 1

As we now prepare the sanctuary for Good Friday, you are invited to join by clearing your own table, and removing or covering some of the beauty in your home, as may be appropriate, for the time until the Great Vigil of Easter. You might do this in the sacred space you have set aside for prayer during Holy Week, or you could do this throughout your home. Some possibilities include:

- *Taking away flowers, art, or other decorative objects for the coming days*
- *Turning pictures around or covering them with a cloth (napkins or even simple towels can work well for this). The idea is to simplify the space as a way to mark the emptiness of Good Friday. It does not need to be a complete transformation, though: even a small change to your home can be enough to help you enter into the starkness of this time.*

In a typical year, we would enter into vigil, praying with the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose. Unable to do so together in one place this year, all are invited to sing, pray, and keep watch in your own way through this long night.

Stay With Me

Taizé

Stay with me, re - main here with me,
 watch and pray, watch and pray.

Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the Triduum, or the Three Great Days. It is understood to be one long, complex, mysterious worship service, stretching from Maundy Thursday through Good Friday to the Easter Vigil. As such, there is no dismissal from this service — instead we pause, continuing to pray and keep vigil on our own through the night, until our worship begins again tomorrow.

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