



The Triduum: Maundy Thursday

With nightfall 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. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, we are called to follow His example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. We remember Jesus' sacrifice of His life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

Maundy Thursday is the beginning of the Triduum, or the Three Days—the ancient observance of the mystery of our salvation, which plunges the faithful into the death of Jesus and brings them with Him to resurrection life. The Triduum is one worship service, extending from Thursday evening through the Resurrection of Our Lord. Together the Three Days proclaim the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

✠ GATHERING ✠

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. Brothers and sisters in Christ ... reconciled with God and with one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

C. I confess that I am held captive by sin and cannot free myself. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart, I have not loved my neighbor as myself. I pray for forgiveness I cannot earn and renewal I do not merit, given only through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P. Almighty God looks upon you with mercy, and through Baptism has joined you to the saving death of Jesus Christ so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, you too might walk in newness of life. 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.

C. Amen.

GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. 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. By Your Holy Spirit write this commandment in our hearts and give us the will to serve others as He was servant of all, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C. Amen

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

In the Jewish Passover, the blood of the lamb replaced the blood of the firstborn, and so God granted life to the people. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, connecting the Jewish cup of salvation with the blood of Christ Who delivers God's people from sin and death.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ² This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ 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. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ 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. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116: 1, 10-17a

We are servants of Christ, gathered in the Lord's house, lifting the cup and praising God's name.

I love the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplication,
because He has inclined His ear to me whenever I called upon Him.

¹⁰ How shall I repay the LORD

for all the good things He has done for me?

¹¹ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the name of the LORD.

¹²I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all His people.

¹³Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of His servants.

¹⁴O LORD, I am Your servant;
I am Your servant and the child of Your handmaid;
You have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁵I will offer You the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.

¹⁶I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all His people,
¹⁷in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians II:23-26

Paul describes Jesus' last supper and hands on to others the tradition that sharing in the bread and cup of this meal proclaims the death of the Lord.

For 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, ²⁴ 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." ²⁵ 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." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God.

Because John's gospel usually heightens and deepens the meaning of the narratives about Jesus, the gospel readings throughout the Three Days come from John.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

On the last Thursday of His life, Jesus connected a meal shared with His disciples with this coming death, and He demonstrated the meaning of His death by washing their feet. The meal, the footwashing and the death of Christ—all convey God's love.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

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.”

P. The gospel of the Lord. C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN *Where Charity and Love Prevail*



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Celebrating Christ's passion that gives life and salvation, let us pray for the church, the world, and any who are in need.

C. hear our prayer.

Holy One, gather all the baptized around Your presence in the Word. Strengthen the body of Your people, that living according to Jesus' new commandment and by His example, we may grow in our love for one another and all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

You provide an abundance of food from Your creation. Allow in this time the planting of fields for food, and lead us into equitable ways of distribution. Gather households together, so that no one's table is lacking. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Your Son washed the feet of and ate with the ones who would deny and betray Him. Transform the world by reconciling enemies to one another and overcoming evil with love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

You listen to the cries of Your people and mercifully attend to them, especially Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Bill and Karen Pohlen, Bill Ningen, Carol, Sylvia and Jim and Norma, and Brad, that they might receive Your blessing, and that we may be led to care for our brothers and sisters who suffer hunger, illness, oppression, loneliness, abuse, or any physical or spiritual disease. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

You announce the promise of deliverance through the people of Your first covenant. Bring joy to the Passover celebrations of our Jewish brothers and sisters, and lead us to proclaim Your goodness together. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all the saints and martyrs who followed the example of the One Who washed His disciples' feet and who now rest from their labors. Bring us with them into Your everlasting glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Hear our prayers, gracious God, for the sake of the One Who came to serve and not to be served and offered Himself for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

OFFERING

If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website (www.bethelofporter.com).

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. God of glory,

C. receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to Your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+ MEAL +

PASTORAL ADDRESS

P. We who receive ... our thanksgivings to God.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you. C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts. C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Blessed are You ... pouring out His life for the world.

C. Amen.

P. In the night in ... and proclaim the mystery of faith.

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. Gracious God ... both now and forever.

C. Amen.

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.

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

- P. The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
C. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- P. 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.
C. Amen

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The Altar, which is the symbol of Christ in our midst, is stripped bare. All ornament is removed: Christ is stripped of His power and glory. There is no blessing. The services ends in silence.

This worship service continues tomorrow, Good Friday, at 7:00 pm.

Those who serve:

Ministers: All the people of God **Presider:** Rev. Ellen Munter
Organist: Terry Dybsetter **Reader:** Dan Dybsetter
Camera: Josh Sumption **Projection:** James Kamrath/Kendon Knutson
Sound Room: Ken Jeremiason and Jerome Bruns

How to reach us:

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THIS WEEK (Mar 29th - April 4th)

April 2 7:00 pm Good Friday worship in person and live on Facebook
April 4 7:00 am & 9:30 am Easter Sunday worship in person and live on Facebook



Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson
Shirlee Gabbert, Bill and Karen Pohlen
Bill Ningen, Carol Moon, Sylvia & Jim Pridal
Brad Danielson, Norma Dovre

Complete Glory

It is worthwhile to notice how John's gospel interprets Jesus' actions in washing the disciples feet. We learn that Jesus is fully aware that it is His time, the moment of His glorification. Furthermore, His love is complete. He has loved all those He was called to love, and He has loved them to the end. Near the end of the reading we learn that in the footwashing Christ's glory extends to God's glory, so that the various kinds of glory are all united at once.

It is as if time, space, and relationship are all transcended or fulfilled in this singular moment in Jesus' ministry. It's as if Jesus really is everything. Jesus is here, in this moment, in this place and performing this action, and He is at the same time the glory of God.

What could possibly be so important about Jesus' washing of His disciples' feet? John describes this moment as if it were the most important transition point in his whole gospel, shifting from Jesus' earthly ministry, which is now completed, to His crucifixion.

Right here, between His earthly ministry and His crucifixion, Jesus is in complete control while handing over everything to others. He leads by serving. He is glorified by giving glory. He is exalted in His humility. He loves so completely that He hands the freedom to love over to those He loves without reserve. Right here, in this moment, Jesus' glory is complete. There is nothing more glorious, more beautiful, than someone washing a friend's feet. On this day, we remember Christ glorifying Himself and God in this way, and we are inspired to imagine the many opportunities we have to go and do likewise.

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Prayers of Intercession by Gail Ramshaw (lightly edited by Pastor Munter)