



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, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our 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; God's forgiveness and the power of His Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of His love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Within the community of His Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution we receive forgiveness as from God Himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord. 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 for reflection and self-examination.

P. Most merciful God,

C. I confess that I am captive to 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 neighbors as myself. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive, renew and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen

P. In the mercy of almighty God, our Lord Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for His sake, God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by His authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin 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. 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. 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: 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. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

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.

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?**

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

¹²**I 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.

¹⁴**O 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.

¹⁶**I 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

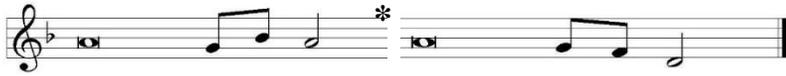
SECOND READING: I Corinthians 11:23-26

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, 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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*All together*)



I give you a | new commandment,
That you love one another just as I | have loved you.

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. We hear the gospel this evening from The Message, a very understandable translation of Holy Scripture.

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

F Dm C F C F Bb C F C7 F Bb C

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.

F Gm7 C Dm C F Bb C Dm Bb6 F C F

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.

5 For love excludes no race or clan
 That names the Savior's name;
 His family embraces all
 Whose Father is the same.

6 We now forgive each other's faults
 As we our own confess,
 That we may love each other well
 In Christian gentleness.

† PRAYER †

OFFERING

If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 22, Porter, 56280) or you may make your offering online at our website (www.bethelofporter.com).

OFFERTORY

Create in me...

(next page)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a
 right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
 pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from
 me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
 and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our separate homes but gathered together in the Spirit and united with Christians around the globe on this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

hear our prayer.

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, 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, hear our prayer.

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 care-givers of Your plants and animals. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

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 needy. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Blessed are You, faithful God, for You accompany suffering humanity with love. Abide wherever the coronavirus has struck. Visit all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; 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. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Blessed are You, gracious God, for this congregation. Help us to take up whatever cross is laid upon us and gladly carry it, sharing in Christ's death that leads to His everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Blessed are You, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith, especially the martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whom we commemorate today. At the end, bring us with them into Your everlasting glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hear our prayers, gracious God, for the sake of the One Who came to serve and not to be served, and Who died and rose that we might live with You, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

HYMN

Stay Here

The musical score for the hymn "Stay Here" is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system of music includes the lyrics: "Stay here and keep watch with me. The hour has come." The second system includes the lyrics: "Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray." Above the vocal line, the following chords are indicated: F, Am, Dm, C, F, Bb, F, C in the first system; and Bb, A, Dm, C, F, Bb, C, F in the second system.

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: Sara Wollum

Acknowledgements

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“Where Charity and Love Prevail” Text: Latin Hymn, 9th Century; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997; Tune: attr Lucius Chapin (1760-1842) Text © 1960 World Library Publications

“Stay Here” Text: Matt. 26:38, 45; Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994; © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering: During this period of suspended in-person worship services, Bethel and Hemnes continue to have recurring expenses. Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>

THIS WEEK (April 14th - April 20th)

April 9 Maundy Thursday worship live on Facebook at 7:00 pm

April 10 Good Friday worship live on Facebook at 7:00 pm

April 12 Easter Sunday worship live on Facebook at 10:00 am



Bea Heise

Merv Anderson

Emily Morton,

Dick Anderson

Angie Denelsbeck Anderson

Shirley Gabbert

Lynette Christie

Duane Evans

Wendy VanWinkle

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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