

GRACE LUTHERAN

PLACES *of the* PASSION



The Upper Room - MAUNDY THURSDAY

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APRIL 1, 2021 - 7:00 PM

Maundy Thursday
April 1, 2021
7:00 PM

*(*Indicates when the congregation stands.)*

THE WELCOME

***THE INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: “And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; prepare the Passover for us there.” *(Mark 14:15)*

Pastor: Let us ever walk with Jesus.

People: **To see the depths of His love.**

Pastor: To behold the gift of His forgiveness.

People: **To gaze upon the heights of His grace.**

Pastor: To marvel at the magnitude of His mercy.

People: **We walk with Jesus to the Upper Room.**

Pastor: Where Christ gives His body and blood.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** “Today Your Mercy Calls Us” *(sts. 1, 2 & 4)* *Hymn 915*
(Stand and face the cross as it enters the Sanctuary.)

Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father’s welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv’n,
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav’n.

**O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.**

***THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Jesus awoke on that Thursday morning ready to begin the long journey to the cross. But we often awake with evil in our hearts, and live our lives as if we were still dead in our sins. Adam and Eve followed the evil words of Satan and they sinned. God's judgment against sin was death:

People: **"For dust you are, and to dust you shall return."**

Pastor: We too deserve death. As St. Paul says,

People: **"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," and "The wages of sin is death..."**

Pastor: Left to ourselves, unable to follow God's law, we are hopeless, dead in our trespasses and sins. In our despair, we can do nothing. We turn our eyes to the ground and pray along with the tax collector,

People: **"God be merciful to me, a sinner."**

Pastor: We cry out with Bartimaeus,

People: **"Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me."**

Pastor: We plead along with David,

People: **"Have mercy on me, according to Your unfailing love."**

Pastor: According to His unfailing love, God has heard your prayer. Jesus said of the tax collector's prayer, "He went away justified." In response to Bartimaeus's plea, Jesus healed his blindness. Answering David's cry, the prophet Nathan said, "The Lord has taken away your sin." God has heard our prayers as well, because of His great love for us, He sent His Son into the world to save us. On that Thursday night in the Upper Room, Jesus showed His love for His friends and for us. He gave His body and blood as a life-giving meal, before shedding His blood and giving His life on the cross. Trusting in His sacrifice, hear now what God says, "You are forgiven. You shall go home justified. I have taken away your sin."

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”
(sts. 1 & 5)

Hymn 611

**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.**

**O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. Then 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 flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord’s Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and 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 are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE ANTHEM

“Gathered in the Upper Room”
(Mixed Quartet)

F. Lopez, P. Mock

*Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

*People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:17-29

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.” Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

***THE SERMON HYMN “When You Woke That Thursday Morning”** *Hymn 445*
(Choir sings stanzas 1 & 2, congregation joins in on stanza 3)

*When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin’s wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.*

*Never so alone and lonely,
Longing with tormented heart
To be with Your dear ones only
For a quiet hour apart:
Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
One last paschal meal to eat,
One last lesson as their teacher,
Washing Your disciples’ feet.*

**What was there that You could give them
That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them,
What last will and testament?
“Show Me and the world you love Me,
Know Me as the Lamb of God:
Do this in remembrance of Me,
Eat this body, drink this blood.”**

THE HOMILY

“The Upper Room”

THE PRAYERS

Pastor: By the blood of Jesus we have confidence to enter God’s presence. So let us draw near to God in prayer with sincere hearts and with the full assurance that faith brings. (*Hebrews 10:19-22*)

Pastor: Merciful Father,

People: **Hear us for the sake of Christ who bled and died for us.**

Pastor: That the Church of Christ as the body of Christ in the world, might bear witness to His saving love for all, Merciful Father,

People: Hear us for the sake of Christ who bled and died for us.

Pastor: That all the world for which Christ died may be brought under the sway of His good and gracious rule, Merciful Father,

People: Hear us for the sake of Christ who bled and died for us.

Pastor: That the blessings we receive may be shared with all, especially to those in extreme circumstances and dire need, Merciful Father,

People: Hear us for the sake of Christ who bled and died for us.

Pastor: And that the good gifts which we receive this day may truly be a foretaste of the banquet yet to be, the everlasting feast of those whom Christ has gathered by His grace and in His love to share His gifts forevermore, Merciful Father,

People: Hear us for the sake of Christ who bled and died for us. Amen.

***HOLY COMMUNION**

***WORDS OF PREPARATION**

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***THE 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.**

(Please be seated)

THE MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

“Alabaster Jar” *S. Boerma, C. Courtney*
(Grace Chorale with Cello)

“I Come, O Savior, To Thy Table” & “Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior”

**I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: Refrain.**

Refrain

**Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

**Thy body, giv’n for me, O Savior,
Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever,
By them my hungry soul is fed. Refrain**

**Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: Refrain.**

**Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. Refrain.**

**Who can condemn me now? For surely
The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely
With Jesus I to heaven rise. Refrain**

“Not What These Hands Have Done”

Hymn 567

**Not what these hands have done
Can save this guilty soul;**

**Not what this toiling flesh has borne
Can make my spirit whole.**

**Not what I feel or do
Can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears
Can bear my awful load.**

**Thy work alone, O Christ,
Can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,
Can give me peace within.**

**Thy love to me, O God,
Not mine, O Lord, to Thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest
And set my spirit free.**

**Thy grace alone, O God,
To me can pardon speak;
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God,
Can this sore bondage break.**

**I bless the Christ of God,
I rest on love divine,
And with unfalt'ring lip and heart
I call this Savior mine.**

***THE BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS**

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Pastor: Pour out upon us the spirit of Your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom You have fed with the one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

In this liturgical act a transition is made from the Eucharistic celebration to Jesus' crucifixion and death. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of His power and glory, is now in the hands of His enemies. Because we are certain of the Easter victory, this symbolic service reminds us of the magnitude of our Savior's love.

Pastor: After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly:

prayer in Gethsemane
betrayal by Judas
arrest, mock trial, painful beating
the trudge to Golgotha and execution

As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolize His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us. The flower vases, which hold the flowers that remind us of God's creation are now removed. As there were no flowers at the cross of Christ, so we remove the flowers that adorn our Chancel.

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Hymn 449

**O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when He suffered, so we have extinguished our candles and now remove them.

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace.**

Pastor: Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in sending His

Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

**What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.**

Pastor: The missal stand holds the worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand.

**Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.**

Pastor: Jesus' offered body and His shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the Symbols of this Sacrament.

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast Thou offended
That man to judge Thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by Thine own rejected, O most afflicted.**

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon Thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone Thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied Thee; I crucified Thee.**

Pastor: Our altar is in the form of a table. It is here where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade; materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

**Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
For man's atonement, while He nothing heedeth, God intercedeth.**

**Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay Thee,
I do adore Thee, and will ever pray Thee;
Think on Thy pity and Thy love unswerving, Not my deserving.**

*(Because this liturgy flows directly into the Good Friday liturgy,
there is no blessing or postlude.)*

(All leave in silence.)

THE PARTICIPANTS

The Preacher	Vicar Michael Duffy
The Celebrant/Liturgist	The Rev. Charles T. Reich
The Organist/Choir Director	Wynn Bonner
The Accompanist	Diane Lambert
The Instrumentalist	John-Mark Ligon
The Vocalists	Wynn Bonner, Vicar Michael Duffy, Peggy Jo Griffin, Leah Welter
The Sound Technician	Bruce Wales
The Communion Deacons	Carl Locke, Mike Rottmann, Roger Walker
The Elder on Duty	Jennifer Smith
The Lectors	Carldayle Brantley, Jake Garrison, Lillian Witcher
The Crucifer	Olivia Zinsmeister
The Candle Bearers	Sadie McIntee, Micaiah Rickenberg
The Acolytes	Kennedy Miller, Vincent Miller
The Robing Leader	Gillian McIntee
The Welcome Team Greeter	Sarah Duffy
At the Welcome Center	Cynthia Butt
The Welcome Team Ushers	Steve Hnatiuk, Dr. Ken Rogers, Barry Walker, Chris Zinsmeister

The Confirmation class will assist with the stripping of the altar.