

Christ's United/Friedens/St. James Lutheran Churches

Maundy Thursday ✕ April 9, 2020

The pastor enters in silence

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE INSTRUCTION

Friends 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 the Church, God never wearies of giving the peace of reconciliation 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.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example the Lord gave us on the night before his death.

It is, however, in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our LORD's last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the LORD's gift of himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. Holy Communion is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our LORD returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, 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. **Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRONOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

The Pastor will offer absolution to penitents individually.

HYMN "GREAT GOD, YOUR LOVE HAS CALLED US"

GREETING

The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *The Pastor offers prayer on behalf of the Assembly*

Holy God, source of 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.**

PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19 *Sung Responsively*



¹I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
²**for 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?
¹³**I 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.

¹⁵**Precious 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.

¹⁷**I 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,

¹⁹**in the courts of | the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, | O Jerusalem.**

VERSE

**I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just
as I loved you.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. JOHN 13:1-17, 31B-35

The Gospel of our LORD. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN "A NEW COMMANDMENT"

FOOT-WASHING

We have heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

The entire congregation is invited and urged to come forward for the washing of feet. The hymns are sung during the foot-washing.

HYMNS "JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE"
"UBI CARITAS ET AMOR"
"WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL"

THE PRAYERS

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of love, unite your church in its commitment to humble service. Make us your faithful disciples. Speak words of truth and grace through us. Encourage us in self-giving acts of kindness. Let us love one another as you have loved us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, tend to your creation and bring forth an abundant harvest. Let the earth flourish so that all may eat and be satisfied. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, you give us a new commandment, to have love for one another. We give thanks for all who respond and bring aid, care, and comfort during this time of crisis. Keep all your servants safely in your care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, listen all who call upon you for any need of body or spirit (*especially*). Provide for those who do not have enough to eat, the homeless, those who are unemployed, and those who rely on the generosity of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, you invite us to your table of mercy. Heal all among your people. Be with the many within our nation and in our world stricken by despair and grief. Bring them a large measure of your consolation and hope. And extend the hospitality of this table beyond these walls, that your love and welcome be made known to all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, glorify your servants who walked by faith in this life and who now feast with you. Inspire us by the sacrifice of those who were imprisoned, persecuted, or martyred for their faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE PEACE *A sign of peace is shared in the name of our Lord.*

HYMN AT SETTING OF THE TABLE *“WE PLACE UPON YOUR TABLE LORD”*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, your Son offered himself to you on the altar of the cross. Receive and bless these gifts which we bring to your altar here in praise of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, Jesus Christ our LORD. **Amen.**

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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in
the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *Words of Institution prayed by the pastor.*

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**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving death of the LORD, until he comes in glory.

LAMB OF GOD *Spoken in unison*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

HOLY COMMUNION

During the ablutions, as the altar is being cleared
HYMN: "GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE"

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER

LORD God, in a wonderful Sacrament you have left us a memorial of your suffering and death. May this Sacrament of your Body and Blood so work in us that the way we live will proclaim the redemption you have brought; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The congregation is invited to be seated or kneel as the altar is stripped. The people should not be distracted by reading the Psalm, but should focus on the stripping of the altar, symbolic of Christ being stripped of His clothing before being crucified.

PSALM 22 *Chanted by the Cantor*

*The service ends without a benediction or dismissal. There is no postlude.
No further words are said; all leave the church in silence.*

✘ ✘ ✘

Ash Wednesday began the forty days of Lent. Tonight the season of Lent ends and we experience the incredible and long-awaited forgiveness that our LORD offers to us. Maundy Thursday's emphasis is on forgiveness and reconciliation given in Holy Communion and made visible in foot-washing. Worship ends with the stripping of the altar, symbolic of Christ's humiliation at the soldier's hands. There is no benediction at the close of the service because the liturgy does not end here, but only pauses until the Good Friday liturgy of tomorrow.

About Foot-washing...

Foot-washing has its origins in a simple act of charity, mentioned in John 13:34, when Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment to love one another and provided his followers with a profound example of humble servanthood. Foot-washing can be traced as far back as the 4th century when it was originally part of the baptismal liturgy. While it fell out of practice for a while, it reappeared in monasteries and by the 7th century was performed in all churches in Spain and France. It was about this time that foot-washing became a regular part of the Maundy Thursday liturgy.

As part of the Maundy Thursday liturgy, foot-washing serves as a bold reminder that we are a community of faith committed to the new commandment of loving service to others. The same Lord who established the Sacrament of the LORD's Supper, saying "Do this in memory of me" now calls his people to share the grace they have been given in His name.

Indeed foot-washing says something about who we are. Foot-washing says that our passing over from death to life in Jesus happens in our service to one another and to the world. Foot-washing answers Jesus' difficult question, "Do you understand what I just did for you?" with a resounding "Yes."

Foot-washers are hospitable, humble, self-giving stewards. Foot-washers are servants of the servants, salt of the earth, and light for the world. In some cultures foot-washing is even regarded as an act of respect (it was the practice in Jesus' day to wash the feet of guests who came into your home, but unheard of for a teacher like Jesus to wash the feet of his disciples), rather than an act of humiliation or servitude.

Foot-washing is a powerful symbol of a people blessed by God. Foot-washing is the powerful work of a people who know that the cross is their glory and their authority is always exercised in service.
