

**Maundy Thursday**

**April 1, 2021**

**Welcome to this Maundy Thursday worship. We share Holy Communion today so you may wish to have wine, water or juice, bread or cracker for the sacrament.**

**There will be a worship for Good Friday online and in person at 6:00pm. St. Mark's will offer an online service after 9:00am and in person worships at 8:30am or 10:30am Easter Sunday. Please register for the preferred service. Masks are required.**

**Today's worship begins the Triduum, a three-day worship that flows from one to another so there is no sending to end the worship.**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to 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.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this day / 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.

***Keep silence for reflection and self-examination.***

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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

### **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**

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people,  
and in the washing of feet, he showed us the dignity of service.

Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith  
may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The first reading is from Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread

and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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.

### **Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

<sup>2</sup>Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

<sup>12</sup>What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

<sup>13</sup>I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,

<sup>14</sup>I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

<sup>15</sup>Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.

You have loosed my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup>I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

<sup>19</sup>in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Praise the LORD!

### **The second reading is from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup>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, <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## **The Holy Gospel according to John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

**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. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>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." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup>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?" <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things; you are blessed if you do them. <sup>31b</sup>"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>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.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The word of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

This is Holy Week. For Christians, those who have faith that Jesus was a man who lived, a man who changed the world by saying women and children had more value than slaves to husbands and fathers. A man who told people to take care of each other in the words of the Great commission of John 15:13 [Jesus says] "This is my commandment, that you love one

another as I have loved you.”

Maundy means mandate, command. Jesus, the man was not ordinary preacher and teacher, he turned water into wine, healed sick people, he raised the dead and did many miracles that caused those who followed him to believe that he was more than a man he was the promised Son of God.

In the book of John, we read that "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God." The Word is Jesus. He came to earth from God "He came to his people but his own did not receive him". Now it's time to go back to God, time to no longer live in this world. John 13:1: "Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father."

If you knew you were going to die in under a week, wouldn't you prioritize and take care of the really important things? In John's Gospel, that means, for Jesus, taking time to wash his disciples' feet. Every year, the foot washing story is our appointed reading. Many Pastors strive to make the message meaningful by asking members to have their feet washed. One Pastor tried to get 12 people to allow her to wash their feet. She was turned down by 6. They sat up front, in a line of folding chairs facing the worshipping community, with their shoes neatly lined up next to each of their chairs. One woman had a pedicure just for the occasion.

This story is not about watching Jesus put his hands on somebody else's feet. It's about letting Jesus put his hands on our feet. Not all of us want that. One reason maybe is that we're embarrassed about our feet. As we get older, we may one day look down at our feet and say to ourselves, "Whose old feet are those? A deeper reason we don't want Jesus handling our feet is because to allow Jesus to touch our feet is to allow him to touch our will. We all have a mind; we all have emotions; and we all have a will—our decision-making power. Our feet are how we put our decisions in motion and get places, do things. I think I will go to a movie, go shopping, go hang out at the bar or go to a sporting event! In Jesus command, he would have us use our feet to take food to a grieving family, go comfort a sad or grieving friend, go visit someone who cannot go anywhere themselves, anymore. Use our feet in service to others.

Jesus shows us how to serve, how to be clean. Not because of a bath or shower, clean

inside. Jesus commands us to go and love others in service, not so we will go to heaven, but because heaven is given to us, by faith, we are to serve and help others. Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

United by the servant love of God in Christ, we pray this holy night for the needs of the world.

You call your people to hand on what we receive from you. Form all the baptized into teachers of faith. From one generation to the next, give your church hunger for your promises in the sacraments and joy in receiving and sharing your word.

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

Your creation provides all that we need. Cleanse and protect the water you have given for washing and drinking, water on which all life depends. Sustain crops and herds that provide food; teach us how to live so that there is enough for all.

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

You redeemed your people from slavery. Preserve people throughout the world who flee violence and oppression. Establish just leadership in place of tyranny and peace in place of war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus loved his followers to the end. Grant assurance of that love to all who need it: those living with guilt, those struggling to forgive, those who are lonely or overlooked. Heal the sick and embrace the dying. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus washed the feet of the one who betrayed him. Inspire this congregation's ministries of service, that we love as Jesus loved us. Give us renewed courage to serve. Bless the ministry of deacons throughout the church. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your glory shone in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We thank you for generations of the faithful who have proclaimed our Lord's death. Unite us with them in hope until he comes again. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hear these and all our prayers, O God, in the name of the one who loves us to the end, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

### **Offering Prayer**

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places,  
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.

Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

### **Holy Communion**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Take your bread/cracker                      The body of Christ given for you

Take you juice/wine/water                      The blood of Christ shed for you

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

### **Prayer after Communion**

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. **Amen.**

## **Psalm for the end of Service when the altar is stripped**

### **Psalm 22**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup>To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

<sup>6</sup>But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

<sup>7</sup>All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

<sup>8</sup>"Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver — let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

<sup>9</sup>Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

<sup>10</sup>On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

<sup>11</sup>Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

<sup>12</sup>Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

<sup>13</sup>they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;

<sup>15</sup>my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.