

A Reconciling in Christ congregation, celebrating the diversity of God's children and fostering understanding and healing in community



Maundy Thursday



Washing of the Feet Paintings in Debre Birhan Selassie Ethiopian Coptic Church (17th-18th century)

April 6, 2023

Followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all... an adventure for life!

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

In Preparation for Worship

- Within the sanctuary please remember that some people use this time of silence to prepare for worship.
- Whenever the cross is carried in procession through the congregation, we turn to face the cross to signify our way of life as followers of Jesus.
- Large-print bulletins and copies of the worship order are available; ask an usher for assistance.
- Assistive hearing devices are available from the ushers.
- Please silence your cell phone.

MAUNDY THURSDAY LITURGY

The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin for "commandment". On this night, we remember how Jesus, after washing his disciples' feet, said, "I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples." This night we open ourselves to receive Jesus' love, and recommit ourselves to letting that same love flow through us to others.

Tonight we will read the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. As people would have walked dusty streets barefoot, their feet would have been dirty, blistered, and battered. Washing the disciples' feet is Jesus' way of telling his followers that, just as he will suffer for refusing to go along with the ways of the Empire, they can expect the same thing to happen to them when they resist the Empire.

Tonight you will have an opportunity to receive the gift of foot- and hand-washing. The directions for this are on page 9 of your bulletin.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

These Holy Mysteries, arr. Roger Wilson

Welcome

Gethsemane

by Mary Oliver

The grass never sleeps. Or the roses. Nor does the lily have a secret eye that shuts until morning.

Jesus said, wait with me. But the disciples slept.

The cricket has such splendid fringe on its feet, and it sings, have you noticed, with its whole body, and heaven knows if it ever sleeps.

Jesus said, wait with me. And maybe the stars did, maybe the wind wound itself into a silver tree, and didn't move, maybe the lake far away, where once he walked as on a blue pavement, lay still and waited, wild awake.

Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that could not keep that vigil, how they must have wept, so utterly human, knowing this too must be a part of the story.

Please stand in body or spirit



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

Text © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music O Oxford University Press.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Please be seated

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

(Contemporary English Version, inclusivized)

A reading from St. Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth

- I have told you what the Lord Jesus did on the night he was betrayed. And it came from the Lord himself.
- He took some bread in his hands. Then after he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Eat this and remember me."
- After the meal, Jesus took a cup of wine in his hands and said, "This is my blood, and with it God makes a new agreement with you. Drink this and remember me."
- The Lord meant that when you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you tell about his death until he comes.

May we listen for what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Amen.

Please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

Christ, Let Us Come with You



Message

THE HARDEST NIGHT

Musical Reflection

Wonderful Grace of Jesus

Lee Dengler Senior Choir

Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin; How shall my tongue describe it, Where shall its praise begin? Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free, For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. Reaches me.

Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching to all the lost, By it I have been pardoned, Saved to the uttermost: Chains have been torn asunder, giving me liberty; For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. Reaches me.

Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most defiled, By its transforming power, making me God's dear child, Purchasing peace and heaven, for all eternity; For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. Reaches me. Reaches me.

WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION AND RECEIVE THE GIFT OF FOOT- AND HAND-WASHING

Jesus invited all who were hungry for food, healing, justice, and joy to share this communion meal.

Since this is his meal, and he is present to us in it, all are welcome.

Communion Litany

On this night, Christ brings new life to us.

On this night, his compassion is made real.

The bread he gives fills our hunger for his living presence.

The wine he gives quenches our thirst for renewal.

The commandment to love one another gives new life to all our relationships.

And he binds us together as a community God delights in. On this Maundy Thursday, Jesus calls us to receive his love, and respond by loving and serving this world.

Side by side, we follow him.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. Lift up your hearts. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. And also with you. We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body, broken for you. Do this to remember me." After supper, he took the cup and gave it to them, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me."

Holy Spirit, breathe on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine, that sharing in the blessed broken, risen life of Jesus, we may share his continual life and presence. Make of us one body, so we might live at home in your love until no one is homeless. With confidence, we pray in your name:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sharing the Meal

- The gifts of God, for the people of God. Jesus welcomed all to this meal. So do we.
- You may come forward to receive the elements, remain seated and use the pre-filled communion cups available at the door, or let an usher know you'd like to be served in your seat.

Foot- and Hand-Washing

We will wash feet and hands in the back of the sanctuary. After you have received communion, come to the back of the sanctuary and take a seat. (If you choose not to receive communion, you can come directly back at any time.) When a washing station is open, if you wish to have your feet washed, leave your shoes and socks under the chair and go to the station. Once you are seated, one foot will be washed (a simple pouring of water over the foot) and then dried. This is repeated for the second foot. Then return to your chair, put on your shoes and socks, and return to your pew. If you wish to have your hands washed, simply go to an open station and be seated. Water will be poured over your hands, and then they will be dried.

Music during the Meal and Washing Jesus, I will Ponder Now

arr. Wilbur Held

WE ARE SENT



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953 Text © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music C Oxford University Press.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Blessing

Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

The altar represents Christ, and the solemn removal of all that is on it forces us to confront his betrayal, abandonment, arrest, and, tomorrow, his execution. While the altar is stripped, Psalm 22 is read. On the cross, as he feels so abandoned and alone, Jesus cries out using words from this psalm.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from me, from my desperate cries for help? I call you by day, O my God, but you do not answer me; by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One, praised by the people and enthroned in the sanctuary. In you our ancestors put their trust. They trusted, and you set them free; they cried and were delivered; they trusted you, and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm, hardly human, despised by all, mocked by the crowd. All who see me jeer at me. They sneer at me, shaking their heads: "You relied on God; let God help you! If God loves you, let God save you!"

Yet it was you who drew me from the womb and soothed me at my mother's breast. I have belonged to you from my birth; from my mother's womb you have been my God. I will tell out your name to my people; I will praise you where they are assembled. For you did not despise or disregard the poverty of the poor; you did not hide your face from me but heard when I cried to you. You inspire my praise in the great assembly. I will make good my promise before your faithful people. All the ends of the earth will remember and turn again to you Families of all races will worship you, for you hold dominion over the nations. Even those who sleep in the earth will bow before you; but how can these, our ancestors, serve you from the grave? It is I who must live for you, O God! It is my descendants who will serve you; the coming generation will be told of you. And they will proclaim your deliverance to people yet unborn, saying, "These things God has done."

Translation by Wild Goose Publications

The Entrance of the Crown of Thorns

As part of their effort to humiliate and degrade him, the Roman soldiers created a crown from a thorn bush and put it on Jesus' head as they sarcastically knelt before him as "King of the Jews". We place a crown of thorns on the altar to remind us of this story. We depart in silence, painfully aware of the ways so much of creation suffers to support our lifestyles, and keep us from having to confront our culture's addiction to violence and fear.

Departure in Silence

CCLI License # 11287796; One License A-728105

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The communion liturgy is adapted from "Enter with Joy," by Pat Bennett, published by Wild Goose Publications. Contemporary English Version (CEV) ©1995 American Bible Society

11

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TONIGHT

Presiding Minister Cantor Readers ASL Interpreter Organist & Senior Choir Director Pianist & Chimes Choir Director Communion Prep Producers David Shull, Pastor Emily Kent Brad Binau, Naomi Fae Morgan Bryan Neal Kathy Rapp Karen Kent Diane Brobeck Tom Mimlitch, Michele Disbro



1555 South James Road, Columbus OH 43227 614.237.1263 + <u>info@RedeemerLuth.com</u> + <u>www.RedeemerLuth.com</u> Office hours –9am-1pm, Mon-Wed; 9am-noon Thu A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America