

Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024

The Triduum—The Great Three Days

The Triduum, the “Three Days,” is at the heart of our Christian faith, celebrating the triumph of God’s love over sin and death. It is one festival that lasts for three days; worship flows from one service to the next. The celebration begins at dusk on Maundy Thursday. We remember Jesus instituting the meal of Holy Communion and washing his disciples’ feet, and we hear his “new commandment,” to love one another as he has loved us. At the close of the service the altar is stripped to signify Jesus being stripped of his clothing and the humiliation he suffered at the hands of the soldiers.

On Good Friday, we gather in silence, just as we left the night before, to remember the Lord’s passion and death. The service is solemn but not mournful; on the cross, Jesus reveals the love, power, and glory of God. His death is not defeat, but victory. During the Good Friday service, the lights grow dim and the cross takes center stage. The prayers we say at this service are ancient and connect us with Christians around the world.

On Saturday, many Christians celebrate the Easter Vigil, telling the stories of salvation history and leading from darkness to light. Finally, on Easter morning, we hear the amazing news that Jesus Christ is not dead, but is risen from the grave, a message that is as powerful a proclamation today as it was that first Easter morning. Our alleluias burst forth once more, as we celebrate what God has done.

Welcome to the Great Three Days.

Prelude

Please stand, as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: 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 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 is kept for reflection and self-examination.

All: 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.

Pastor: 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. **All: Amen.**

Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: 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. 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. **All: Amen.**

Please be seated.

Anthem “When Jesus Wept”

Sanctuary Choir
Ed Hipkiss, Soloist

First Lesson: *Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14*

¹The 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. ⁴If 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... 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.

After the reading,

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson: *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

²³For 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.

After the reading,

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John, the thirteenth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: *John 13:1-17, 31b-35*

¹Now 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."

After the reading:

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

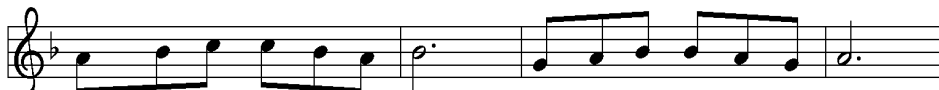
Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show




us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent-ly wash-es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent-ly wash-ing their feet:

Refrain



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Please be seated.

Foot washing or hand washing

During this reflective time, you're invited to come forward to participate in one or more of three experiences.

1. Tying a prayer ribbon: At the head of the center aisle, you will find a wooden cross. At this station, you may offer a prayer and tie a ribbon on the cross as a sign of that prayer.
2. Foot washing: As a way of remembering Jesus' sign of loving service in washing the disciples' feet, you may have your foot ceremonially washed. When you are seated at the station, remove the shoe and sock from one foot, which will be washed and dried. This station will be up front on the lectern side.
3. Handwashing: If you are not comfortable with having your foot washed, you may have your hands washed instead. With our hands we serve one another, living out Jesus' commandment. We wash hands tonight as a sign of Jesus cleansing us and loving us, that we may love others. This station will be up front on the pulpit side.

Prayers of Intercession

Assisting Minister: Lord, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

Please stand.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

(Please feel free to move around and share the peace of Christ with those around you with words, signs, or a hug.)

Offertory Response

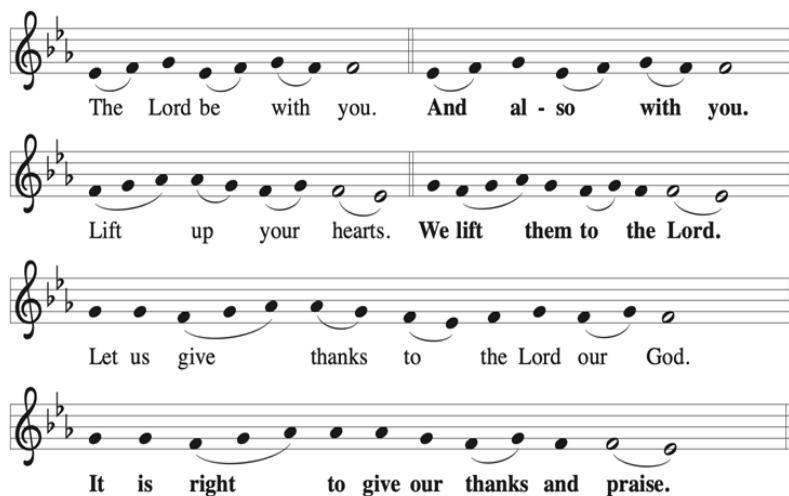


Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered so that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **All: Amen.**

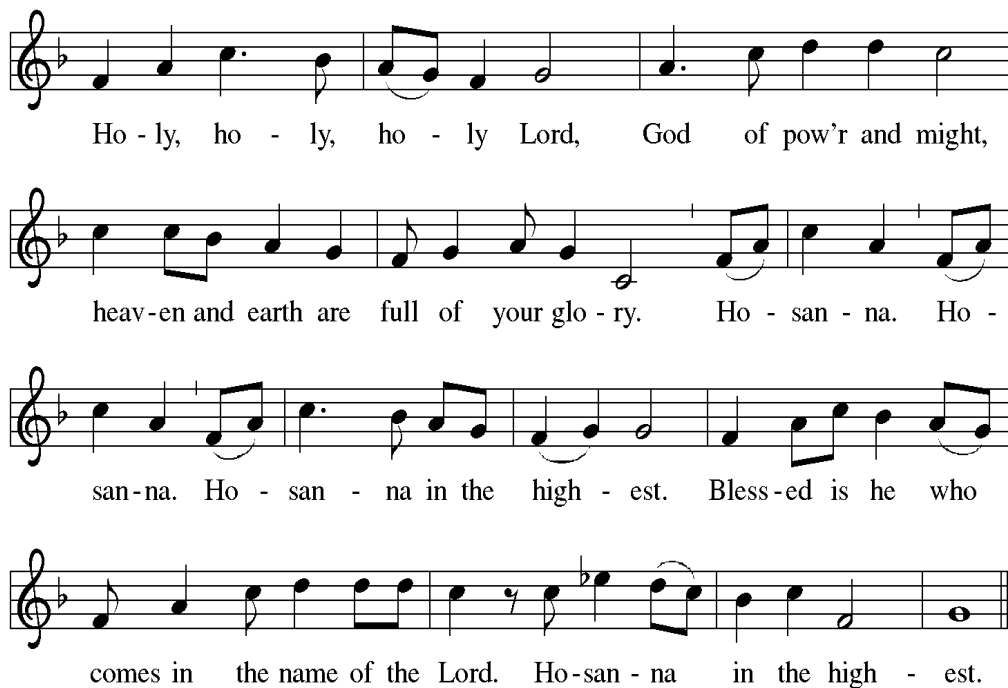
Dialog



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

Preface

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor: Blessed are you, O living God, sovereign of time and space. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Your word leads us across the sea to freedom, and you have carried us together to these holy Three Days. Blessed are you, O living God, for your glory revealed in Jesus Christ. He is our Servant, who washes our feet with love. He is our Lamb, whose blood takes away our sin. He is our Host at this meal, offering us the cup of salvation.

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.

Blessed are you, O living God, for the gift of your loving Spirit.
Fill this meal with the life of your Son. Make us servants of one another and of everyone in need.

Bring us with all your people to the joy of the resurrection.

Blessed be God forever!

All: Blessed be God forever! Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

All: 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 Communion

Pastor: This is Christ's table, and he is the host of this meal. So come: you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come; Christ promises to meet us here.

Please be seated.

Jesus invites you to his feast! Come forward, as you are able, to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine. (If you need to receive communion in your pew, you can alert us by holding up your hand after the line has gone through, and we will be glad to come to you.)

Distribution

Communion hymn: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Please stand.

Blessing after Communion

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **All: Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. 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. **All: Amen.**

Please be seated.

Stripping of the Altar/Psalm 22 Cantor: Sinclaire Trump

The stripping of the altar has both practical and symbolic significance for worship. Practically, it sets the stark stage for the Good Friday service. Symbolically, it represents the indignities Jesus suffered at the hands of the Roman soldiers, specifically the stripping of his garments and the humiliation of his crucifixion.

The congregation departs in silence.

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God by Greg and Roxann Harrell in honor of Steph Kinard's birthday.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP tomorrow night at 7 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP at 8 and 10:15 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED on April 1 for Easter Monday.

Worship Participants:

Pastor: Reverend Sigrid Hipkiss

Minister of Music: Allison Trump

Lector: Clay Black

Assisting Minister: Julie Maher

Cantor: Sinclaire Trump

Usher Captain/Communion: Valerie Diehl

Tech: Linda Eisenhart

Altar Guild for March: Ralph and Fran Nace



Church information:

Gathered to worship, care, and grow; sent to love like Jesus.

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