

Maundy Thursday
April 18, 2019

Gathering

Worship begins with the first note of the prelude. Please silence all electronic devices and conclude any conversations.

Prelude

A Way to Calvary Leadeth
Wood

+Call to Worship

Jesus said "As the Father has loved me, so I will love you."

We will live on in Jesus' love.

Jesus said, "You will live in my love if you keep my commandments"

We will live on God's love.

Jesus said, "All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and your joy may be complete"

We will keep this commandment: we will love one another as Jesus has loved us.

+Prayer

Let us pray...O Lord our God, tonight we gather to remember our Savior Jesus and his sacrifice of love for us. We pause to remember his last meal with his closest friends and disciples. We pause to remember the betrayal he would suffer. We pause to remember the pain that would be His to bear. We gather to bear witness to our Savior. We gather to grow in our faith and be renewed once again by the Story of mystery, Story of the Resurrection. Send your Spirit to be with us this night till Easter morning. In Christ we pray. Amen.

+Hymn 209

My Song Is Love Unknown

Unison Prayer of Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence let us confess our sin before God and one another.

We confess tonight that we are like those who crucified our Lord. We are like those who denied Jesus—refusing to claim him as Lord of our whole life. We are like those who have mocked him—forgetting his power in this world. We are like those who made him a crown of thorns—diminishing his authority in our lives. We are like those who hung him on a Cross—choosing the allure of violence and fear rather than justice and peace. We are like those who turned away their gaze—afraid to enter into the suffering of this world. Forgive us. Have mercy upon us. On these days of emptiness and death before the Resurrection we begin tonight to offer our confessions to you in silence.....

-Silence is Kept-

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Even in the darkness of this night, even in the emptiness of these hours that stretch out before Easter morning the promise of the Resurrection is still at hand.

It is a dim light, and yet to the light we cling.

Give us grace to receive this assurance of your love.

Grant us peace on this night. Amen.

Since God has forgiven us in Christ,

let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Sharing the Story

Anthem

The Last Supper

Pote

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26: 17-30

Eternal God, by your Word and Spirit, you have given us a new commandment: to love and serve one another in Jesus' name. Let the good news of your liberating love be sealed in our hearts and shown in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

17 On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" 18 He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' " 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. 20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; 21 and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." 22 And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" 23 He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." 25 Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so." 26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." 30 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Homily

Rev. Liz Rolf Kanerva

+Hymn 202
Prepare

An Upper Room Did Our Lord

Invitation to the Table

The night may have been much like tonight;
the room, much like this one;
the people, much like us, too.

Matthew tells it like this:

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man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from 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 never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Remembering this last and first meal,
we move from this incredible feast to another glorious meal.
So let us sing as we make our way to this feast.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all time and all creation,
we thank you for your work in our world,
for good food and good friends,
for the time to share a bountiful meal
and the space to worship you.
All that we have and all that we are comes from you.

Most of all, this night we thank you for Jesus Christ,
for the faithful and righteous life that he lived,
for the journey he made during this week that we celebrate from exalted king to crucified lord,
and for the meal that he shared with his disciples before he was killed,
where he revealed and shared his full self with those who cared for him.

Be present with us now, by the power of your Spirit,
that once again this meal might be a chance for us to share in the life, death, and resurrection of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

May this bread be for us the body of Christ,
this cup be the blood of our Lord,
and the sharing of this feast our participation in that meal of so long ago.

Strengthen us by this meal for the journey ahead,
that we might continue to walk with Christ along the road of his passion and death
as we await his rising on Easter and to the fullness of new life.
Through Christ, who shares this table with us even now, we pray. Amen.

Among friends, gathered around a table, as they shared a meal as we have done,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, and gave it to his disciples,
promising that as they ate they would share in his life and death and resurrection.
As we share it now, we join in the feast of all creation, now and always.

And he also shared a cup of wine, offering them a taste of the new covenant of life sealed in his
life.

As we share it now, we join in the feast of all creation, now and always.

So come on this holy night.
Share this holy meal.
Remember our Lord Jesus Christ.
Keep the feast now and always.

Sharing the Bread and Cup - Jean, please play familiar hymns like 510 We Gather Here
and 525 Let Us Break Bread Together

Stripping of the Church

Liturgist: When the holy meal had been shared, the disciples began to argue over which one
would be the greatest. Even here, at the end of their time together, they did not seem to
understand what Jesus had been teaching them all along. He reminded them that to be great in

the Kingdom of God meant to serve. After Jesus' talk of betrayal, the disciples' argument, and Jesus' rebuke of them, the disciples seemed to be growing anxious. Peter proclaimed:

All: "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

Liturgist: And Jesus replied, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you know me." Afterwards, Jesus led his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. He asked them to pray for him, for he wanted to be alone. There, Jesus prayed. He asked his friends to keep watch, but they kept falling asleep. He prayed for another way out. He prayed in anguish. He prayed as a man who could feel pain, who would be hurt by betrayal, who would be scarred by the scourge, and would bleed when nails were driven into his arms and legs. He prayed as a man who knew that if he followed God's will, he would be charged, convicted, mocked, humiliated, abandoned, and nailed to a cross. Knowing all of this full well he prayed, "Not my will, but yours." Then he stood up for all that he had lived for. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come to into the time of trial"

All: Judas said to Jesus, "Rabbi" and kissed him. Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

Liturgist: There was a brief skirmish at the arrest, but his disciples quickly scattered. Peter, who had only hours before promised to go with Jesus to prison, even death, followed from a distance. During the trial, Peter remained hidden in the shadows. First a servant girl saw him and said, "This man was also with him."

All: "Woman, I do not know him."

Liturgist: A little later someone else, on seeing him said, "You also are one of them."

All: "Man, I am not."

Liturgist: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man was with him; for he is a Galilean."

All: "I do not know what you are talking about. I do not know Jesus."

Liturgist: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him, and he wept bitterly.

+Hymn 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

Stripping of the table (All of the items that adorn the Lord's table, and all of the liturgical banners are removed in silence)

There will be no sending forth or postlude. People are asked to leave in reflective silence, and return for Good Friday service and Easter Sunday service.