

**Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024**

**Preparation for Tonight's Service**

The word *Maundy* comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means *command*. On this night Jesus gave a new commandment to his disciples: **Love one another as I have loved you.**

In this Lenten season we've heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—everything that keeps us from loving God and each other. To this struggle we were committed 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 his Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution we receive forgiveness as from God himself. We firmly believe that our sins are forgiven in heaven, for this grace comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

In Holy Communion 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. The Eucharist—this meal of thanksgiving—is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the final glory of our reconciliation with God and each other.

### **Confession of Sins**

P: While we still were sinners, Christ died for us.  
Through the power of the Holy spirit, God promises to heal and forgive us.  
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.  
For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness,

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For longing to have what is not ours,  
and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves,

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For the times we have been the cause of ill-feeling between others,  
And for the times we have spoken untruthfully about others,

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For issues of human relationships,  
and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others,

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For jealousies that divide families and nations,  
and for rivalries that create strife and warfare,

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For reluctance to share the gifts of God,  
And for carelessness with the fruits of creation,

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For hurtful words that condemn,  
and for angry deeds that harm,

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

P: For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,  
And for squandering the gifts of love and grace,

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

**Absolution**

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous 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.

C: Amen

**Hymn**

*O Christ, Thou Lamb of God*

hymnal #103, HP 1447

**Prayer of the Day: 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. Give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Litany**

P: On this night Christ brings new life to us.

C: **On this night his compassion is made real.**

P: The bread he gives satisfies our hunger for his divine presence,

C: **and we are fed with words of absolution.**

P: The wine he gives quenches our thirst for renewal,

C: **and we are filled with forgiveness from our God.**

P: To the blessed Lord of sacrifice and service

C: **We commit our every thought, word, and deed.**

**Reading**

Exodus 12:1-14

pew Bible, p. 104

*After each reading, "The word of the Lord," "Thanks be to God"*

**Hymn**

*Jesus, Still Lead on* (1, 2, 4)

hymnal #341, HP 1685

**Reading**

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

pew Bible, p. 955

Page 4

**Reading**

I Corinthians 11:23-26

pew Bible, p. 1784

**Gospel**

John 13:1-17, 34-35

**Glory to you, O Lord!** (before)

**Praise to you, O Christ!** (after)

**Sermon**

**Hymn**

***For Perfect Love, So Freely Spent*** (all 3)  
Sing to *Amazing Grace*, hymnal #448, HP 3023

words: hymnal #216

**Apostles' Creed**

**Prayers of the Church** (Merciful God, **receive our prayer**)

**Service of the Eucharist (*Thanksgiving*)**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

(read responsively)

hymnal, **page 88**, front of hymnal

**Preface** (read by Pastor)

***Holy, Holy, Holy***

(read together)

hymnal, **page 89**, front of hymnal

### **Words of Institution**

P: When the hour had come, Jesus sat at the table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I shall not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

Then our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, saying, "*baruch ata adonai eloheinu melech ha olam ha motzeh matzah me ha arets.*" (Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.) And he 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."

Then after supper he took the cup and gave thanks, saying, "*baruch ata adonai eloheinu melech ha olam ha boreh peree ha gofein.*" (Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who gives us the fruit of the vine.) And he 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."

**The Lord's Prayer** (traditional)

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

**Communion Blessing and Prayer after Communion**

**Stripping of the Altar (Psalm 31)**

**Please leave the sanctuary in silence.**

***There is no benediction or closing hymn. This service continues tomorrow, Good Friday, at St. Stephen (12:30) or at St. John (6:00)***