**Maundy Thursday**

**April 1, 2021**

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**PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER**

**INSTRUCTION**

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 are 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.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us make confession to God.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Almighty God, merciful Father:

**I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen**

On Ash Wednesday, you began this season of repentance with confession, receiving the ashes of repentance. Receive now your absolution, the forgiveness which comes from Christ our Lord.

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In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

**Amen**

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**

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 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.

**Amen**

**FIRST READING** Exodus 12:1–14

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

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

**GOSPEL** John 13:1–17, 31b–35

**SERMON**

**SILENCE**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

On this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the needs of the world, responding to each petition with words from today’s psalm, “we call upon your name.”

*A brief silence.*

Blessed are you, O God, for the church. Strengthen your people, gathered around the globe on this holy day in homes, in churches, and outside under your sky. Bless the church’s deacons and all congregational ministries. Give us hunger for your word and joy in receiving it. Feed us at all our tables with your blessing.

*A brief silence.*

Hear us, holy God.  **We call upon your name.**

Blessed are you for this good earth. Cleanse and protect the water you have given for our drinking and our washing. Sustain crops and herds that provide our food; teach us how to live so that there is enough for all.

*A brief silence.*

Hear us, bountiful God.  **We call upon your name.**

Blessed are you for our nation. Lead us out of ancient patterns of prejudice. Protect all people throughout the world who flee violence and oppression. Establish wise and just leadership in every place and peace where there is violence and war.

*A brief silence.*

Hear us, sovereign God.  **We call upon your name.**

Blessed are you for caring for the needy. Feed the hungry. Give jobs to the unemployed. Embrace all who are isolated and lonely. Comfort those living with guilt and those who mourn.

*A brief silence.*

Hear us, merciful God.  **We call upon your name.**

Blessed are you for accompanying the sick. Bring an end to this pandemic, and restore healthy and hearty connections between persons. Empower medical personnel. Receive our prayers for all we name here before you: . . . .

*A brief silence.*

Hear us, faithful God.  **We call upon your name.**

Blessed are you for serving us, we who are your servants. Receive now, we pray, our silent petitions.

*A longer period of silence.*

Hear us, loving God.  **We call upon your name.**

Blessed are you for generations of the faithful who have proclaimed our Lord’s death and lived in service to others. Unite us with them in hope until we join with them at your everlasting banquet.

*A brief silence.*

Hear us, eternal God.  **We call upon your name.**

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

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Almighty God,

**Creator and Redeemer of the world, we give you thanks that you have loved us and given us the bread of life, your Son, our Savior. With these gifts of bread and wine and our possessions, we dedicate ourselves to a life of love for the sake of him who gave himself in love, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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**

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

We give you thanks, Father,

through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,

whom you sent in this end of the ages

to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,

through whom you created all things,

and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin’s womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot

and was shown forth as your Son,

born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will

and won for you a holy people;

he stretched out his hands in suffering

in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,

in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,

to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,

to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,

taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,

we take this bread and cup,

giving you thanks that you have made us worthy

to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;

gather into one all who share this bread and wine;

fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,

that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;

through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,

with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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**

**DISTRIBUTION**

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**POST-COMMUNION**

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 way we live 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.  (ELW 387)

**Amen**

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**STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

**Psalm 22**

*As the Psalm is spoken, the chancel is stripped.*

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*When the Psalm is completed, all depart in silence.*

*There is no benediction this evening. The service continues with the* Good Friday Liturgy *tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.  Tomorrow at 12:00 Noon, the* Way of the Cross *will be prayed.  Now, remain and pray as long as you wish.*