

Maundy Thursday, April 9th 2020
St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Donatus
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, La Motte

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The presiding minister invites the assembly into the confession, using these or similar words.

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.

All kneel or sit and keep silence for reflection and self-examination.

The presiding minister leads the assembly in the confession.

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.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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.

Amen.

The minister addresses each person individually.

Were we gathered together in person, I would now invite you to come forward for an individual pronouncement of forgiveness. While we are separated by distance, know and trust that God's promise of forgiveness is for each one of you, and so in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

The person may respond Amen.

GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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

The presiding minister leads the 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 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.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

The readings for Maundy Thursday may be read, as follows.

First Reading Exodus 12:1–14

The 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. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 may be sung or spoken.*

¹I love the Lord, who has ¹ heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹ supplication,
²for the Lord has given ¹ ear to me
Whenever ¹ I called.
¹²How shall I re- ¹ pay the Lord
for all the good things God has ¹ done for me?
¹³I will lift the cup ¹ of salvation
and call on the name ¹ of the Lord.
¹⁴I will fulfill my vows ¹ to the Lord
in the presence of ¹ all God's people.
¹⁵Precious in your ¹ sight, O Lord,

is the death ¹ of your servants.
¹⁶O Lord, truly I ¹ am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me ¹ from my bonds.
¹⁷I will offer you the sacrifice ¹ of thanksgiving
and call upon the name ¹ of the Lord.
¹⁸I will fulfill my vows ¹ to the Lord
in the presence of ¹ all God's people,
¹⁹in the courts of ¹ the Lord 's house,
in the midst of you, ¹ O Jerusalem.

Second Reading 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel John 13:1–17, 31b–35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Go to Dark Gethsemane” ELW 347

1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;
 2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
 3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath-less clay;

your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
 oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?

turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Prayers of Intercession

Each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words.

We pray to you, O God, in the name of the one who endured the cross, forgives our sin, and feeds us at his table, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory,
receive these gifts and the offering of our lives.
As Jesus was lifted up from the earth,
draw us to your heart in the midst of this world,
that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom,
from darkness to light, and from death to life;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Psalm 22 is said by the assembly. Lights may be dimmed as the worship space is stripped.

¹My God, my God, why have you for- | saken
me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the
words | of my groaning?

²My God, I cry out by day, but you | do not
answer;

by night, but I | find no rest.

³Yet you are the | Holy One,
enthroned on the prais- | es of Israel.

⁴Our ancestors put their | trust in you,
they trusted, and you | rescued them.

⁵They cried out to you and | were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not | put to
shame.

⁶But as for me, I am a worm | and not human,
scorned by all and despised | by the people.

⁷All who see me laugh | me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they | shake their heads.

⁸“Trust in the Lord; let the | Lord deliver;

let God rescue him if God so de- | lights in
him.”

⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth | from
the womb,

and kept me safe on my | mother’s breast.

¹⁰I have been entrusted to you ever since | I
was born;

you were my God when I was still in
my | mother’s womb.

¹¹Be not far from me, for trou- | ble is near,
and there is no | one to help.

¹²Many young bulls en- | circle me;
strong bulls of Ba- | shan surround me.

¹³They open wide their | jaws at me,
like a slashing and | roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water; all my bones
are | out of joint;
my heart within my breast is | melting wax.

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my
tongue sticks to the roof | of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the | dust of death.
¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in, a band of
evildoers | circles round me;
they pierce my hands | and my feet.
¹⁷I can count | all my bones
while they stare at | me and gloat.
¹⁸They divide my gar- | ments among them;
for my clothing, | they cast lots.
¹⁹But you, O Lord, be not | far away;
O my help, hasten | to my aid.
²⁰Deliver me | from the sword,
my life from the power | of the dog.
²¹Save me from the | lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you
have | rescued me.
²²I will declare your name | to my people;
in the midst of the assembly | I will praise
you.
²³You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of
Jacob's | line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the Lord, all you off- | spring
of Israel.
²⁴For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the
poor in their poverty; neither is the Lord's face
hid- | den from them;

but when they cry out, | the Lord hears them.
²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great
assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those
who | fear the Lord.
²⁶The poor shall eat | and be satisfied.
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May
your hearts | live forever!
²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and
turn | to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow | before
God.
²⁸For dominion belongs | to the Lord,
who rules o- | ver the nations.
²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall
bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be
dead, shall kneel be- | fore the Lord.
³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to
come.
³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a
people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | Lord has acted!"

All depart in silence.