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## Maundy Thursday Worship

**PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER**      My Heart Is Longing Johannes Brahms

*Walk in quietly saying:*

We join a solemn journey of three days that has changed the world and our own lives. Followers of Jesus have been taking this journey since his first followers took it, long ago.

**This is the night of love.** *(pause)*

On the night Jesus took a towel and basin, and washed his disciples' feet. On this night he told them to do the same for others to show their love for him and for one another.

**This is the night of love.** *(pause)*

On this night, Jesus broke bread and shared wine with his followers for the last time, and invited them to remember him to encounter him anew, whenever they did the same.

**This is the night of love.** *(pause)*

On this night, followers of Jesus have welcomed those who have returned to the way of Jesus after a time of wandering and a journey of returning. This is the night of love. *(pause)*

**This is the night of love.** And so, on this night, we welcome the penitent -- all here have wandered- - and invite all preparing -- all here are still learning -- to join us in hearing and obeying the commandment of our Master and to feast at his table, that we may love one another as he has loved us. Come, ye sinners. Come, ye thirsty. Come, ye weary.

**Come to the night of love.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN**      **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**      **#631**

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

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 a 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 I sincerely 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, grant to 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, and you came to receive the ashes of repentance. Come forward now and receive your absolution, the forgiveness which comes from Christ our Lord. Those who desire, come to the altar to receive individual absolution, either kneeling or standing. The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn:

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.  
Each person responds: **Amen** .

*When all who desire the sign have been absolved, the liturgy continues:*

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**

## **WORD**

### **Exodus 12:1-14**

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 2 This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell 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. 4 If 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. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. 7 They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. 10 You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11 This 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. 12 For 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. 13 The 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. 14 This 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.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word: **Thanks be to God!**

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

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

**2 Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

12 What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

**13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,**

14 I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

**15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.**

16 O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid.

You have loosed my bonds.

**17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.**

18 I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

**19 in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!**

### **1 Corinthians 11: 23-26**

23 For 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, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' 25 In 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.' 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Holy Scripture, Holy Word: Thanks be to God!**

As we prepare to hear the Good News, we focus saying,

**Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**The Gospel today is taken from: John 13:1-17, 31-35**

**Glory to you O Lord!**

13 Now 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.

2 The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4 got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5 Then 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. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' 7 Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 8 Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' 9 Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my

head!’ 10 Jesus 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.’ 11 For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’

12 After 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? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.

15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16 Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little 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.” 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### Love Consecrates the Humblest Act

#122

- 1 Love consecrates the humblest act and haloes mercy’s deeds;  
it sheds a benediction sweet and hallows human needs.
- 2 When in the shadow of the cross Christ knelt and washed the feet  
of his disciples, he gave us a sign of love complete.
- 3 Love serves and willing stoops to serve; what Christ in love so true  
has freely done for one and all, let us now gladly do!

Text: Silas B. McManus, c. 1902, alt.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving, listening God, ever-attentive to the voices of those in need, we call on your name so that we might live. Now, we implore you, hear our prayer:

For the church that bears Christ’s name, that the world may know we are his disciples by the love that we have for one another. **Hear us, O God.**

For leaders of nations and all persons in positions of authority, that their lives may be marked by Christ-like service and love. **Hear us, O God.**

For all who are oppressed and living in captivity, that they may escape from evil and death to find the land of freedom you have promised. **Hear us, O God.**

For those who are hungry and thirsty this day and for those who have too much, that we may learn to share your generous gifts, O God. **Hear us, O God.**

For those who are dealing with loss or facing death, that the presence of Christ may bless and keep them. **Hear us, O God.**

P: Answer us in the day of trouble, O God, so that we may lift up the cup of salvation in the presence of your people, giving thanks for all your goodness to us; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## MEAL

### OFFERING/OFFERTORY

O Dearest Jesus

Helmut Walcha

Let us pray. Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 God thanks and praise.**

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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

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. Amen

### **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

**Psalm 22** (spoken in unison)

As the Psalm is spoken, the chancel is stripped.

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

*The service continues with the Good Friday Liturgy tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. Remain and pray as long as you wish.*