



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP
April 1, 2021

Prelude

“Cross of Sorrow”

Welcome

Call to Worship

Pastor:

Jesus spent his life teaching us the meaning of love. Through word and deed Jesus showed us how to love God and to love one another. He fed the hungry. He healed the sick. He invited the women and the children and the tax collectors and the sinners to come to his table. He broke bread with the least and the lost and shared the cup of redemption with them all. He crossed boundaries of race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and class. He challenged religious authority, and he scoffed at pomposity and self-absorbed grandeur. He called out the hypocrites. He admonished the scribes and the Pharisees for their hardened hearts. He brought a simple message: Love God, love yourself, and love one another.

All: We gather in the name of Jesus and remember the way that he showed us. We gather to remember not just his death, but his life.

Hymn:

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Hymnal #324

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Leader 1:

The way of Jesus goes through the cross, but we're not there yet. It is close. We can see its shadow. We can feel the cold, dark, night. We know that the enemies of God are conspiring. They have had enough of him. He threatens their power. They will come for him. First though, we will gather. We gather with Jesus and his closest friends. We gather with those that called him teacher, Rabbi, friend.

We gather for the Passover meal, to remember that God saved the people from slavery. God saved once. God saves forever more.

All: God saved the Israelites at Passover, and revealed that it is God who reigns, not the Pharaoh. God saved once. God saves forevermore.

Hymn:

“When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land”

Vs. 1, 2 & 6



1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,
2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;
3 The pillar of cloud shall clear the way,
4 As Is - rael stood by the wa - ter - side,



op - pressed so hard they could not stand,
to lead the childr'n of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.
a fire by night, a shade by day,
at God's com-mand it did di - vide,



Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,



tell old Pha - raoh: Let my peo - ple go!

5 When they had reached the other shore, let my people go;
they sang the song of triumph o'er, let my people go. *Refrain*
6 Oh, let us all from bondage flee, let my people go;
and let us all in Christ be free, let my people go. *Refrain*

Leader 2:

Even as they were sharing this sacred meal together, the disciples were not of one heart. Jesus knew that he was asking much from these men, and he knew that they would fail him. Judas had already agreed to betray Jesus to the religious authorities. Was he angry at some slight? Was he disappointed that Jesus would not raise an army against the Romans? Was he upset with the value of the oil that the woman “wasted” when she anointed Jesus? We will never know Judas’ heart, but Jesus knew that he would be betrayed. And what did Jesus do with the man that would betray him? He broke bread with him. All of the disciples were deeply saddened, and they asked:

All: I would never betray you, Lord. It's not me, is it?

Bible Reading:

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Pastor Anita Nuetzman

¹The 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. 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.

John 13:3-9, 12-15, 34-35

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!" 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. 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."

Meditation

Pastor Anita Nuetzman

Special Music:

"Agnus Dei"

Susan Leeper, flute; Melanie Johanningmeier, piano

The Lord's Prayer:

Pastor Russ Leeper

Holy Communion

Communion Blessing

Leader 1:

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 seemed to be growing anxious. Peter proclaimed:

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

Leader 1:

And Jesus replied, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you know me."

Leader 2:

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 into the time of trial?"

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

Hymn:

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

(vs. 1-2) Hymnal #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.

Pastor:

There was a 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."

Pastor:

A little later someone else, on seeing him said, “You also are one of them.”

All: “Man, I am not.”

Pastor:

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.”

Pastor:

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

Like Peter, we’ve all denied Jesus in some way. But God’s love is bigger than our failures. So, we end this service in anticipation of Jesus’ great act of forgiveness coming on Good Friday and His ultimate victory over sin and death on Easter. In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, go in peace. **Amen.**

Hymn:

“Lamb of God”

Hymnal #336

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But you have sent him from your side
To walk upon the guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God,
Oh, wash me in your precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Your gift of love we crucified.
We laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble king we named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God,
Oh, wash me in your precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

I was so lost, I should have died,
But you have brought me to your side
To be led by your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God,
Oh, wash me in your precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Postlude