

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

for the glory of God * for the proclamation of the gospel * for the service of humanity

Maundy Thursday

April 18, 2019

PRELUDE

*GREETING:

from John 13:34-35

A new command I give you:

LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

As I have loved you,

SO YOU MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

By this all men will know that you are my disciples,

IF YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

*HYMN: *Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed* (omit v. 3)

Hymnal #294

A TIME OF PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Therefore, let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Let us pray:

Most merciful God, we confess that 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.

We are truly and heartily sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith, pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Christ has reconciled us to God and one another by the cross.

The peace of Christ be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

(All may stand and share a greeting of peace to those present.)

A TIME OF WORD AND WITNESS

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 13:1-17

pew Bible p. 937, NT

HOMILY *Why Is This Night Different From All the Others?*

ACT OF HAND WASHING

Friends in Christ, I invite you to come and be washed, that we may recall whose servants we are, and remember Christ's teaching, that what is done for us may also to be done for others.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Hymnal p. 13

(During the Hand Washing and serving of Communion, you are invited to remember the cleansing actions of Christ which brings us into the presence of God. You do not have to be a member of this congregation in order to participate, as Christ welcomes all who come to him.)

*HYMN: *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

Hymnal #301

DISMISSAL IN SILENCE





The Thursday during Holy Week is known as *Maundy Thursday*. As with Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday marks a unique place in the church calendar. Just as Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, so Maundy Thursday marks the end of Lenten preparation and the beginning of the three holy days called the *Triduum* (Latin for “three days,” referring to *Maundy Thursday*, *Good Friday*, and *Holy Saturday*). This marks the time when the discipline of Lent is concluded with absolution & forgiveness.

The emphasis of this day is Jesus’ new commandment of love: “*Love one another, even as I have loved you.*” Maundy Thursday’s name comes from the Latin *mandatum novum*, which means “new commandment.” Jesus’ new command to his disciples, “*Love one another even as I have loved you,*” contrasts sharply with Judas’ betrayal on the night of the Last Supper.

Holy Communion is celebrated in this service. Receiving Christ’s body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins is always appropriate in worship, and especially on this night in which Jesus instituted the Sacrament.

Jesus’ love for all people is seen not only in his gift of himself for our salvation but also in his humble service to others. The washing of the disciples’ feet was a concrete example of the loving approach Jesus shared with his followers.

Foot washing is often a part of Maundy Thursday celebrations today, as a response to the new commandment and a symbol of Christian charity and service. **Tonight, you will have an opportunity to have your hands washed, symbolically remembering Jesus’ actions for us, and his call to serve others.**

The post-communion portion of the service takes us from the upper room in Jerusalem where the disciples celebrated the Passover to the Garden of Gethsemane in preparation for Good Friday. The altar, which is one of the most prominent symbols of Christ in the church, is solemnly stripped of its vestments and symbols, in memory of the abandonment of Jesus in Gethsemane and the stripping of his clothing prior to his crucifixion.

The service ends in silence as we turn our minds to tomorrow, Good Friday, the day of Jesus’ death on the cross for the sins of the world.

T H U R S D A Y

M A U N D Y

S E R V I C E

April 18, 2019

Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
—John 13:31-35