

2020 MAUNDY THURSDAY ONLINE SERVICE

Music

CP #530 – By Night

By night we hasten, in darkness
To seek for the living water;
Only our thirst lights us onwards,
Only our thirst lights us onwards.

The Gathering of the Community

Greeting

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
Let us recognize his presence with us.
As God's people we have gathered;
Let us worship him together.

Penitential Rite

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples. We ask for your mercy and your help.

Our selfishness betrays you:
Lord, forgive us.
Christ have mercy.

We fail to share the pain of your suffering:
Lord, forgive us.
Christ have mercy.

We run away from those who abuse you:
Lord, forgive us.
Christ have mercy.

We are afraid of being known to belong to you:
Lord, forgive us.
Christ have mercy.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins, and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect

O God, your Son Jesus Christ has left to us the meal of bread and wine in which we share his body and his blood. May we who remember this sign of his great love show in our lives the fruits of his redemption; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

This is the day that Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him. Let us find out why.

The Proclamation

Reading

A reading from the second book of Exodus (*Ex. 12:1-4, 11-14*)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 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. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

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. 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 judgements: I am the Lord. 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. 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1, 10-17 (BAS, p. 864)

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *

because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

How shall I repay the Lord *

for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation *

and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord *

in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord *

is the death of his servants.

O Lord, I am your servant; *

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;

you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *

and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord *

in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the Lord's house, *

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

Eternal God, faithful in your tender compassion, you give us hope for our life here and hereafter through the victory of your only Son. When we share his cup of salvation, revive in us the joy of this everlasting gift. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

This is the day that Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room. It is also the day that Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet. Let us hear about it.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel according to John (*John 13:1-17, 31b-35*)

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 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." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." 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? You call me Teacher and Lord - and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Jesus' ministry is a model of service. So it is no wonder that at his Last Supper Jesus would perform the ultimate example of service for his disciples. For centuries, Christians have re-enacted Christ's washing of his disciples' feet. Tonight, we cannot wash each other's feet, but I invite you to share in the experience through a guided meditation.

Meditation – not to be put in PPT

Relax.

Be comfortable.

Close your eyes.

Breathe in.

Hold.

Breathe out.

Breathe in.

Hold.

Breathe out.

Be still.

Let go of all the distractions.

Let your worries fly away.

Breathe in.

Hold.

Breathe out.

Breathe in.

Hold.

Breathe out.

Imagine . . .

You are in a very simple room.

Sitting at a table with food and friends.

Jesus is there.

Peter, John, and all the other Apostles are there, too.

You are remembering the Passover together.

You are nervous about what will happen to Jesus during this festival.

Sit back and look around the table.

How does it feel to be with friends, feeling these mixed emotions?

Notice Jesus getting up.

He takes his cloak off,

ties a towel around his waist.

He fills a bowl with water.

He walks over to Peter and kneels down.

Watch Peter's face and the interaction between the two of them as Jesus washes Peter's feet.

What seems to be happening?

What are you hearing?

How do you think Peter feels?

The next thing you know Jesus is picking up the bowl.

Follow him with your eyes, moving around the table.

He is coming towards you.

He kneels down.

Looks into your eyes.

Reaches for your foot.

Spend some time interacting with Jesus while he washes your feet.

Jesus stands up in front of you.

He moves to the person sitting next to you.

You are left there, in your seat, with your thoughts from your personal encounter with Jesus.

Name them.

How are you feeling.

Jesus finishes with the last person at the table.
He throws out the water.
Unties the towel.
Puts on his cloak.
Sits down at the table.
He takes some time to look around the expressions of those who are there.

What is the mood of the group?

Jesus looks around at all of you.
He says: "Do you understand what I just did for you?"
You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Lord,'
and fittingly enough, for that is what I am.
But if I washed your feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—
then you must wash each other's feet.
As I have done, so you must do."

Just relax and think about what Jesus' words mean for you.

It is time to come back to this space.
Gently roll your ankles.
Wiggle your fingers.
Shrug your shoulders.
Open your eyes.
Allow yourself time just to come back slowly.
Sit up, stretch, yawn.
Slowly.

After washing his disciples' feet to show them how to serve one another, Jesus gave them a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. He then initiated them into the ultimate act of love he would make as a servant of God. This is the day that Christ our God gave us this holy feast, that we who eat his bread and drink his wine may proclaim his Holy Sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection, and at the last day may reign with him in heaven. Let us hear the story.

Reading

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (*1 Cor. 11:23-26*)

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, 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." 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." For 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.

On the night that Jesus gathered with his friends he took bread and he blessed it and shared it with his friends, for God who loves us, feeds us. As God fed his people with manna in the wilderness and were satisfied, so we are fed spiritually by the sacrifice of Jesus' body.

On the night that Jesus gathered with his friends he took wine and he blessed it and shared it with them. For the God who made us delights in us, and gives us good gifts to delight our tongues, and gives joy to our souls. As Jesus offered the Samaritan woman gushing water that quenches the thirst, so Jesus offers us his blood that gives us life. We thank you Lord that through your sacrifice you offer us the holy drink of heaven, washing our sin and quenching the thirst of our souls.

Reading

A reading from the Gospel of John (*John 18.1-11*)

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "For whom are you looking?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he", they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "For whom are you looking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

After remembering Jesus' last evening with his disciples, the waiting begins. Tonight, Jesus was alone, under arrest, and awaiting his death. Tonight, his friends were alone with their guilt, shame, and fear.

Tonight, we are missing our normal routines, our communities, and friends. Many are alone, isolated and afraid, Jesus waits with us all tonight, even as we wait with him. Jesus knows what loneliness feels like, what fear tastes like. Jesus knows the heartbreak of being alone when you want most to be with people you love. Tonight, we hold vigil with the sick, the fearful, the lonely, and with all who risk their own lives to protect and care for ours.

Psalm 51 (BAS p. 770)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *

in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness *

and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, *

and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned *

and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak *

and upright in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
Be favorable and gracious to Zion, *
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices, with burnt-offerings and oblations; *
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

Holy One, draw near to your people this night, wait and watch with us; for our hearts are heavy.
Send your holy angels to watch over the sick, and to guide the hands of those who tend to
them. And we beseech you, comfort us as a Mother soothes her beloved children. May we
watch, and wait, strengthened by your presence. **Amen.**

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