

April 9, 2020

Maundy Thursday

In Preparation for Worship

With this service our Lenten observance comes to its culmination. We gather now with Christians around the world in celebrating The Three Days (known as the Triduum) of Jesus' death and resurrection.

On this first day, Maundy Thursday, we gather around the Lord's Table to remember the supper by which Jesus would express himself to the disciples and to the world. His love was revealed in the emptying of his life for us. Jesus invited all to share the holy meal and become what we eat and drink: the body of Christ offered in love for the life of the world.

During this worship service, we will follow the story of Jesus and his disciples at The Last Supper. While they were gathered for the Feast of Passover, Jesus transformed the sacred meal into something sacramental, bearing the grace of God for all who would receive it.

To receive this sacrament at home, you are encouraged to use whatever you have in your home already – sliced bread, crackers, cookies, pretzels, any sort of juice, wine, water, or even a coke. You may consider placing the elements in cups and on a plate that is special to you. You may designate one person to serve or gather in a circle to pass the elements to one another. As you share the bread, you may say, "The bread of life" or "The body of Christ." As you share the cup, you may say, "The cup of salvation."

As Presbyterians, we believe that the Lord's Supper enacts and seals what the Word proclaims: God's sustaining grace offered to all people. In these days, though our tables are in many different places, our hearts and lives are bound together through Jesus's great love for each of us and all of us. If you have any questions about celebrating the Lord's Supper in your home, feel free to reach out to one of the pastors.

The Maundy Thursday service then follows the journey of Jesus and his disciples from the Last Supper to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knows the ultimate struggle to come. In the garden he begs his disciples to stay vigilant with him in prayer, as the shadows of the story approach. Our prayerful close and silent departure will help us stay connected with Jesus in this heightened moment of the holy week drama.

Welcome and Announcements

At this time, please take a moment to let us know you are worshiping online with us by sharing your name in the "comments" on our live feed.

Prelude

Garden Medley

Kelly Sloan

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord said to Moses in the land of Egypt
 People: over this meal, remember.
 Leader: Jesus said to his disciples in Jerusalem,
 People: over this meal, remember.
 Leader: This night, over this meal, we remember the Lord
 People: who never forsakes the people of God.
 Leader: This night, in the garden, we wait for the Lord
 People: whose love knows no bounds.

Opening Hymn #525

Let Us Break Bread Together

**Hymn sheets are located at the end of the bulletin.*

Opening Prayer

Let us pray. Gracious God, we gather here to break bread and drink from the cup together, as we remember and give thanks for this meal and for your most precious gift of Jesus, the bread of life. We live by your bread, and by your every word. Keep us hungry for your heavenly food that it may nourish us. Through your Holy Spirit, open our ears to your words in the readings, music, and sacrament tonight, so that we may be fed by your light, your truth, your freedom, and your peace. Amen.

The Passover Feast of Jesus and His Disciples

Mark 14:12-16

Phil Brown

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

The Passover Observance Given to Moses

Exodus 12:24-27

David Lower

You shall observe this Passover rite as a perpetual ordinance for you and your children. When you come to the land that the Lord will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this observance. And when your children ask you, "What do you mean by this observance?" you shall say, "It is the passover sacrifice to the Lord, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he spared our houses." And the people bowed down and worshiped.

Jesus Foretells Betrayal

Mark 14:17-21

Catherine Anne Thomas

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

John 13:1-17

Les & Laura Woodsides

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."

The Lord's Supper

Mark 14:22-25

Phil Brown & Shannon Dill

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take, this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Communion Hymn #527

Eat This Bread

Clair Maxwell

*Hymn sheets are located at the end of the bulletin.

Jesus Foretells Denial in the Garden

Mark 14:26-31

Mary Guerrant

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' (continued...)

But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.

Praying in the Garden

Mark 14:32-42

David Lower

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Hymn #473

Shepherd Me, O God

Clair Maxwell

*Hymn sheets are located at the end of the bulletin.

Benediction

Let Us Break Bread Together 525

The musical score consists of three staves of music in common time (4/4) and F major (indicated by a 'F' with a sharp sign). The top staff uses soprano and alto voices. The middle staff uses bass and tenor voices. The bottom staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes.

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)
 3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees)

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees. (on our knees)

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me)

This African American spiritual quite possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending early morning communion services in colonial Anglican churches, but its combination of hope ("rising sun") and supplication ("Lord, have mercy") speaks to many worshipers' experience.

Eat This Bread

527

G C Am D Bm

Opt. A "Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and
Opt. B Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to Christ and

nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread;
nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread;

drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst."
drink this cup; trust in Christ and you will not thirst.

This text from the Taizé Community is based on John 6:35, which is paraphrased here in two styles. The more immediate first version maintains the second-person invitation spoken by Jesus, while the alternative version provides a more general statement in the third person.

TEXT: Robert J. Batastini and the Taizé Community, 1984, alt.
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984

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BERTHIER
Irregular

Shepherd Me, O God

(Psalm 23)

473

Capo 1: (Em) (C) (G) (D)
Refrain Fm D♭ A♭ E♭

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
 (Bm7) (Am7) (Bm7) (Em)
 yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Leader stanzas included in Accompaniment Edition

PSALM 23

Refrain

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
- 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.**
Refrain
- 3 He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
- 4 **Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I fear no evil,
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**
Refrain
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- 6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house
of the LORD forever.** *Refrain*

PSALM PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, our good shepherd,
in the waters of Baptism you give us
birth,
and at your table you nourish us with
heavenly food.
In your goodness and mercy,
lead us along safe paths,
beyond the terrors of evil and death,
to the house of the Lord
where we may rest securely in you
forever.
Amen.

For centuries no psalm has been better known or more beloved than Psalm 23. Although most people now have little occasion to encounter actual shepherds in daily life, this image remains a cherished and meaningful expression of reliance on God's faithful protection and provision.

TEXT and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1986

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of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.*

SHEPHERD ME
Irregular



SAINT LUKE'S

P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

At-Home Virtual Communion

As part of our normal worship practice on the first Sunday of the month, and because we know that Jesus met people where they were and he continues to meet us where we are, our church family will celebrate At-Home Virtual Communion this Sunday.

During our online worship, the pastors will preside over the elements in their respective homes, offering the Invitation to the Lord's Supper, Prayer of Thanksgiving, and the Words of Institution. We are asking that each family then share the Lord's Supper together, using whatever elements you may have available, just as we often do on mission trips.

We encourage you to prepare for worship with the following ideas:

- Create a worship space, perhaps at the kitchen table or a coffee table. Feel free to place anything on the table that has special meaning for you, such as a special memento that reminds you of church or witnessing God in the world. Last week in worship, we talked about lighting a candle before worship each week as a reminder that God is with each of us wherever we are, therefore, we are all together through the Spirit.
- Remember how the pastors often say during the Lord's Supper, that Jesus uses ordinary things for extraordinary purposes? Well, this is one of those times that common things can represent God's grace to us. Please do not feel the need to purchase special bread or juice, we do not want to place that burden on you nor is it necessary. Use whatever you have in your home already – sliced bread, crackers, cookies, pretzels, any sort of juice, wine, water, or even a coke. You may consider placing the elements in cups and on a plate that is special to you.
- You may designate one person to serve or gather in a circle to pass the elements to one another. As you share the bread, you may say, "The bread of life" or "The body of Christ." As you share the cup, you may say, "The cup of salvation."

As Presbyterians, we believe that the Lord's Supper enacts and seals what the Word proclaims: God's sustaining grace offered to all people. The Lord's Supper is at once God's gift of grace, God's means of grace, and God's call to respond to that grace. Through the Lord's Supper, Jesus Christ nourishes us in righteousness, faithfulness, and discipleship. Through the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit renews the Church in its identity and sends the Church to mission in the world. This is what we celebrate when gather around the table – and in these days, though our tables are in many different places, our hearts and lives are bound together through Jesus's great love for each of us and all of us.

If you have any questions about celebrating the Lord's Supper in your home, feel free to reach out to one of the pastors.