



MAUNDY *Thursday*

"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 13:34-35 NIV

March 28, 2024

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Hermiston, Oregon**

Maundy Thursday gains its name from the Latin word *mandatum* (commandment) and refers to the new commandment Jesus gave on this night to “love one another as I have loved you.” *John 13:34*

This would be a busy night for Jesus ...

He would wash His disciples' feet in a lesson of humility, love and servanthood

The last of His teachings would be delivered to His friends including:

- Giving them the New Command to love one another
- Declaring Himself to be The Way, the Truth and the Life

As He celebrated the Passover, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper; and

He would go out to the Garden of Gethsemane where His Passion (suffering) would begin ...

- Jesus would pray to His Father, accepting the cup of wrath in our place
- Be betrayed by a kiss from a friend, arrested by His enemies, and His trials would ensue

What we begin tonight will not be completed until the final service of Easter Sunday, thus the benediction is held back until Easter morning.

May God bless you in your worship this holy season!

Confession and Absolution

P: During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil — all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other. Since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night when He instituted this blessed meal for our salvation, it is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently examining ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. This holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness. To help us consider our state before the Lord, let us remember His Ten Commandments.

C:

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

P: When we thus examine our hearts and consciences in the light of God's perfect law, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

Having heard the Word of God and having examined ourselves in the light of His Commandments, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Scripture tells us that Jesus, after His resurrection, said to His disciples, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

John 20:21-23 ESV

P: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C: Yes.

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.

May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The One Who calls you is faithful and He will do it. *1 Thessalonians 5:23*

C: Amen.

WASHING FEET

Hymn #446 "Jesus, Greatest at the Table"

- 1 Jesus, greatest at the table,
The almighty Son of Man,
Laid aside His outer clothing,
Poured some water in a pan;
As the Twelve lay, hushed in silence,
He the servant's task began.
- 2 Marvel how their Lord and teacher
Gently taught them not to vie
As He humbly knelt before them,
Dusty feet to wash and dry,
By His tender touch expressing
True compassion from on high.
- 3 Jesus took the role of servant
When upon that gruesome span,
For all human sin He suffered
As a vile and loathsome man;
On the cross poured out like water
To fulfill the Father's plan.

4 Can we fathom such deep mercy?
Do we see what God has done?
Who can grasp this great reversal:
Love that gives His only Son?
Christ, the sinless for the sinners,
For the many dies the One.

5 Jesus gave to His disciples
A commandment that was new:
"Show My love to one another,
Do as I have done for you;
All the world will know you love Me
As you love each other too."

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"He who has ears to hear, let him hear . . ."

Mark 4:9

Holy Scripture

John 13:1-20

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not 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, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

Offering

A NEW COMMAND AND A NEW LIFE

Hymn #526 "You are the Way, Through You Alone"

1 You are the way; through You alone
Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed
His heart and will and mind.

- 2 You are the truth; Your Word alone
True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.
- 3 You are the life; the empty tomb
Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You
Not death nor hell shall harm.
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win
Whose joys eternal flow.

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"He who has ears to hear, let him hear . . . "

Mark 4:9

Holy Scripture

John 13:31-35 and John 14:1-11

When he [Judas] had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."....

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves."

The Prayer of the Day

P: Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord Jesus, once You knelt to wash Your disciples' feet, teach us Your love and empower us with Your Spirit

C: that we may manifest this saving love to those around us.

P: Once You set apart bread and wine to be Your own precious body and blood, renew our faith

C: that we may come to Your table and receive in faith the gifts of forgiveness and life which are imparted in this holy Supper.

P: Once You were betrayed into suffering and death by one whom You loved, grant us the courage to believe and the wisdom to recognize the power of temptation and evil.

C: that through Your Spirit we might resist.

P: Once You made known Your love for the least, the lost, and the suffering, send now Your healing love on all who are sick

C: that they might abound in Your peace and hope.

P: Once You prayed that Your disciples might be one, send now the Spirit of unity and peace to Your Church. Where it is in error, bring truth; where it is divided, bring reconciliation; and where it is persecuted, bring strength and confidence

C: that the truth of our redemption may be proclaimed to the world.

P: Once You suffered when Pilate condemned You, send now Your peace to our world, equip leaders to serve You with justice and integrity,

**C: that the freedom we enjoy may be preserved,
and the weak protected from oppression.**

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer. 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.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Hymn #617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"

- 1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:
O Lord, have mercy!

- 2 Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!
 O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made:
 O Lord, have mercy!

- 3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion!
 O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:
 O Lord, have mercy!

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"He who has ears to hear, let him hear . . ."

Mark 4:9

Holy Scripture / Words of Institution

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

P: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way also He took the cup, 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.

Distribution

Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray. O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GETHSEMANE

Hymn #436 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

- 2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.
- 3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.
- 4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

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"He who has ears to hear, let him hear . . . "

Mark 4:9

Holy Scripture

John 18:1-14

When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

² Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶ When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

⁷ Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." ⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

¹² Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³ and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

Homily

The Stripping of the Altar

The STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR is an ancient feature of Maundy Thursday, symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers.

#1: As our Lord begins His Passion, losing His freedom and beginning His deep suffering on our behalf, we strip away from our Altar and Chancel the symbols of life, beauty, and freedom.

Our American and Christian flags, our flowers, and the Processional Cross are removed

#2: Within hours of His arrest, Jesus would be crucified and the whole land would be clothed in darkness. Therefore we extinguish and remove our candles and darken our altar.

Our Candelabra are extinguished and removed and the lights on the Cross are turned off

#3: On this night the Lord instituted His Holy Supper as His last will and testament. As we prepare for Jesus' death, we remove the Lord's Supper from our Altar.

Our Communion ware and Elements are removed

#4: After Jesus gave Himself as the offering for our sins, He was removed from the sight of the people and buried. Thus we remove our offerings and gifts from the Altar.

Our Offerings and Offering plates are removed

#5: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . . and then was silenced by death. Our words and hymns of joy are silenced also as we contemplate the death of Christ.

Our Worship Books and Hymnals are removed from the Chancel

#6: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life." As Jesus was lifted up on the cross, we lower our banners.

Our banners are lowered and removed

#7: The soldiers gambled for Jesus' garments. Later, He would be wrapped in linen and laid in the tomb. Our paraments point us toward His garments and the altar linens serve as a reminder of the cloth that wrapped our Lord in His death.

Our paraments and linens are removed

Psalm 22 will be read while the cross is draped with a black cloth. This Psalm (v.1) was cited by Jesus with a loud voice as He hung on the cross. As it is being read, notice how David alternates between cries of despair and declarations of hope . . .

Closing Scripture

Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

³ Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴ In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵ To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

⁷ All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

⁸ "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

⁹ Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

¹⁰ On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹ Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

¹² Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³ they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶ For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;

they have pierced my hands and feet —

- ¹⁷ I can count all my bones — they stare and gloat over me;
¹⁸ they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.
¹⁹ But you, O LORD, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog!
²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!
²² I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.
²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!
²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
²⁸ For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.
²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.
³⁰ Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

Good Friday

Noon Scriptures and Prayers
6:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service*

Easter Sunday

10:30 a.m.*

* ***will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube***