

Order of Worship + Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020

REFLECTION:

This night we gather to remember our Lord's humble life of service and love for all people. As we again hear the readings of the Holy Scripture, we remember Jesus' self-sacrificing love for us, and his unwavering obedience to his Father. We remember that disciples are called to be participants in Jesus' life of submission, obedience and sacrifice.

***Opening Hymn**

LBW 203 "Now We Join in Celebration"

Now We Join in Celebration

1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion At our Sav - ior's in - vi -
 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, Fill our hearts with ho - ly
 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion As one fam - 'ly of God's

ta - tion, Dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, Clothed in - stead in
 rap - ture! For this bread and cup of bless - ing Are for us the
 chil - dren, Rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, One in you with

joy and won - der; For the Lord of all ex - is - tence,
 sure pos - sess - ing Of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry,
 God our Fa - ther. Give us grace to live for oth - ers,

Put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence, Stoops a - gain in love to
 Of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry, Pledge of your un - fail - ing
 Serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers, Seek - ing jus - tice, love, and

meet us, With his ver - y life to feed us.
 pres - ence, Fore - taste here of heav'n - ly glad - ness.
 mer - cy Till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Confession & Reconciliation

P: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness and remission of all your sins. Amen.

Please sit or kneel as you are able.

C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness and remission of all your sins. Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: To love one another as he had loved them. By your Holy Spirit write this commandment in our

hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading:

Exodus 24:3-11

When Moses went and told the people all the Lord's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the Lord has said we will do."

⁴ Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵ Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the Lord. ⁶ Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey." ⁸ Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

⁹ Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰ and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. ¹¹ But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Praying the Psalm: Psalm 116:12-19 (prayed responsively)

L: What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

C: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

L: I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

C: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.

L: Truly I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains.

C: I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord.

L: I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people in the courts of the house of the Lord - in your midst, Jerusalem.

C: Praise the Lord.

Second Reading

Hebrews 9:11-22

But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. ¹³ The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

¹⁵ For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

¹⁶ In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, ¹⁷ because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. ¹⁸ This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. ¹⁹ When Moses had proclaimed every command of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. ²⁰ He said, “This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.” ²¹ In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. ²² In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Announcement**

Matthew 26:36-46

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter.⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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O Living Bread from Heaven

1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well you feed your guest!
 2 My Lord, you here have led me With - in your ho - liest place,
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can death de - stroy.
 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n - ly food, while here

The gifts that you have giv - en Have filled my heart with rest.
 And here your - self have fed me With trea - sures of your grace;
 And you have free - ly grant - ed The cup of end - less joy.
 My course on earth is length - ened, To serve with ho - ly fear.

Oh, won - drous food of bless - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes!
 For you have free - ly giv - en What earth could nev - er buy,
 My Lord, I do not mer - it The fa - vor you have shown,
 And when you call my spir - it To leave this world be - low,

My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows!
 The bread of life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.
 And all my soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore your throne.
 I en - ter, through your mer - it, Where joys un - min - gled flow.

*** Prayers of the Church**

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, we pray for your holy Church throughout the world, that we will be one in truth and love. Give your gracious blessing to all Holy Week services, that your people will be stirred in faith and renewed in commitment.

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

We pray for Bishop Dan and for all servants of your church, that they may be clothed in your humility and that faith will abound and lives be strengthened through their ministry.

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

We pray your wisdom would govern all those who hold authority in the nations of the world, that there will be peace and justice on earth.

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Continue to grant strength and perseverance to all health care professionals, public servants, and military workers, especially during this time of widespread crisis.

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

We ask for courage to keep watch with you and deny our sinful desires, that we might walk in your will and desire your promises.

A: Lord, in your mercy,
C: **hear our prayer.**

We pray you would comfort and heal those in our congregation who suffer affliction of body or soul, especially for Keith Pierce, and for those we name before you now...

A: Lord, in your mercy,
C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

A: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
C: **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.

Pastor Ken's Address:

The tradition of Maundy Thursday services is to close with the reading of a Psalm of lament. The reading is done while our altar is stripped of all linens and other furnishings and vessels, this stripping symbolizing our Lord's humiliation on the cross. This year, we encourage you to experience this solemn reading by closing your eyes – imagining our Lord's lonely walk to the cross. You may also experience this in prayer for the suffering of our world, or as a prayer of personal confession.

Reading of Psalm 22

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?

² O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; by night as well, but I find no rest.

³ Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

⁴ Our forefathers put their trust in you; they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵ They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not | put to shame.

⁶ But as for me, I am a worm and no man, scorned by all and despised | by the people.

⁷ All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips and wag | their heads, saying,

⁸ "He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

⁹ Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.

¹⁰ I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

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

¹² Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

¹³ They open wide their jaws at me, like a ravening and a roaring lion.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax.

¹⁵ My mouth is dried out like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

¹⁶ Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; they pierce my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones.

¹⁷ They stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them; they cast

lots for my clothing.

¹⁸ Be not far away, O Lord; you are my strength; hasten to help me.

¹⁹ Save me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

²⁰ Save me from the lion's mouth, my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

²¹ I will declare your name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

²² Praise the Lord, you that fear him; stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

²³ For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; but when they cry to him he hears them.

²⁴ My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

²⁵ The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live forever!"

²⁶ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

²⁷ For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations.

²⁸ To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.

²⁹ My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's forever.

³⁰ They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.