

Maundy Thursday Service April 9th, 2020

Welcome to the Maundy Thursday service. I'm Pastor Larry Courson of Peace Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor. I'm recording this service so that you remember the Last Supper and give thanks to God for the gift of His Son.

We call today Maundy Thursday because Jesus gave two commands that night. The word Maundy means command. After washing the Disciples' feet, Jesus commanded the Disciples to follow His example and serve one another. Jesus also took the bread and the wine of the Passover and gave them a new meaning. We call this the Lord's Supper. Jesus commanded His Disciples to eat and drink often in remembrance of Him.

Let's begin our Maundy Thursday service in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Call to Worship

Come and see the mysteries unfolding.

Squint your eye and bend your ear to these deep things of God.

The Son gathers with his followers, celebrating the Passing Over of the Angel of death, foreshadowing what is to come. ...

The Son gathers with his followers, showing them the extent of his love, instituting a new covenant.

All things begin to come together in the upper room.

Lord, let us look on and listen into these mysteries. Draw us deeper still, Spirit of God, into the depth, the significance of this celebration. In Jesus' name. Amen.

John 13:2-5, 12-15 Jesus washes the Disciples feet, setting the example of service

It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

Prayer

Servant Lord, you teach us how to love and serve, not just through words, but through your life of servanthood. In the lives of other servants, you show us how to stand in a servant's posture and live with love as our call. Thank you for all who live out your instruction, and in their actions show your teaching.

Lord and Teacher, may we also follow your example, serving you and others by sharing your love. Show us how to wear a servant's towel. Use us to meet the deep needs of those near and far. Help us not to be afraid of getting messy, but to risk our own time and energy for the sake of following your call. When others serve us, may we accept their gifts with grace.

We commit ourselves to your service, and ask all of these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Knowing that God loves us, trust that Jesus died to forgive our sins, and putting our hope in the victory that Jesus won over sin and death, we confess our sins to the Lord our God.

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness

Gracious God, we recognize in ourselves the strengths and weaknesses of Jesus' first disciples: although they loved him, they disappointed and failed him.

And yet, gathering with these imperfect friends at this last meal Jesus washed their feet in service, and then extended the bread and cup to each. Jesus called them to love one another, and invited them to share in his very life and in his acceptance of the road ahead.

We are humbled, honored and inspired by the deep love Christ extended to the world, and we take seriously the calling to be the body of Christ today. Forgive us when we disappoint and fail you, and guide us back to a place of trust, faith and joyful living.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, freed and empowered to live as joyful servants of God and one another.

Reading Matthew 26:47-56 Jesus arrested at Gethsemane

And even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people. The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: "You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss." 49 So Judas came straight to Jesus. "Greetings, Rabbi!" he exclaimed and gave him the kiss.

Jesus said, "My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for."

Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear.

"Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will die by the sword. Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?"

Then Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there teaching every day. But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures." At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled.

New Testament Statement of Faith Colossians 1:15-20

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,
for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth.
He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.
Everything was created through him and for him.
He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.
Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.
He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.
For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,
and through him God reconciled everything to himself.
He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

Offering

Message Watchers on the Hill

One Disciple betrayed Jesus with the "Kiss of Death." The other Disciples deserted Jesus when the mob arrested Him and took Him to the High Priest's house. The members of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish Religious Supreme Court, wanted to get rid of Jesus and hoped He would soon be forgotten. Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor who thought he had to decide Jesus' fate, washed his hands of Jesus and hoped he would soon become a distant memory.

But Jesus is not forgotten. Two of Jesus' Disciples, Matthew and John wrote accounts of Jesus' life and ministry we call Gospels. Peter, another Disciple, wrote two letters to the early Christians telling them about Jesus. Jesus is the most important person in the world's history.

The Disciples ate Jesus' Last Supper with Him while celebrating the Passover. During the Last Supper Jesus broke some flat bread, gave a piece to each of His Disciples and said, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body." Then He took the "Cup of Redemption" and said, "Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many."

In a very short period of time the Disciples ate the Last Supper with Jesus, mourned His death and were transformed by His resurrection. Fifty Days after the resurrection they received the gift of the Holy Spirit and began to turn the world upside down, or should I say right side up for Jesus. They spread the Good News from Jerusalem to Judea and to the rest of the world.

The Disciples remembered and told people about Jesus. Because they remembered, we remember too. Jesus' Last Supper was the Passover, the celebration of the Israelites being released from slavery in Egypt.

Peter remembered Jesus washing the Disciple's feet and telling them that they should imitate His love. Peter remembered Jesus' warning that he would deny knowing Him three times before the night was over. Peter remembered sleeping when he should have been praying. Peter also remembered that all knowing look Jesus gave him that drove him to tears of sorrow and repentance.

We remember our need for God's love and forgiveness. We remember how God has helped us in the past, that He is with us now and that He will be with us in the future. We remember the Lord's command to us to love one another as He loves us. We remember His command to us to watch and pray so that we don't fall into temptation. We remember His call to repentance and faith.

The name Peter means "Rock" Jesus gave him that name. But Peter was a rock with many flaws. He was proud, boastful, arrogant and overly self-confident. But Peter also knew where to turn when He needed help. He turned to Jesus and Jesus helped Him. Jesus forgave Peter, just as He forgives us. Jesus used Peter to grow His Church, just as He wants to use us.

Peter may have been called a rock. Jesus is the Rock, the Son of the Living God. He is the Rock of our Salvation. We build our lives and the Christian faith on Him. We remember that the Lord said to celebrate His victory over sin and death. We worship the Lord and serve Him. We are

loved by Christ. We can love others. We are forgiven by Christ. We can forgive others. Jesus is the water of life who quenches our thirst and gives us life.

Today we remember that Jesus did all of this to forgive our sins. We remember that Jesus gives us the Peace of God and Peace with God, the Peace the world cannot give. Because we remember and know that everything Jesus said is true, we build our lives on Him, the rock of our salvation.

Stop to remember and to reflect on all that the Lord has done for us. Remember. Give thanks. Build your life on Christ. Amen

Prayer

On the night You were betrayed, Jesus, you spoke of joy: joy of abiding in you, joy of doing the Father's will, joy of bearing fruit. Please, give us that joy. We want your delight to be in us; we want our hearts to be full. We want to rejoice in the Father's will. We want to bear much fruit. Pour out your Spirit, Lord that we may will and do what is pleasing to you. We ask in the name of Jesus who taught His Disciples to pray.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. 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.

We will do an audio cast of the Good Friday Service

Our Easter Celebration will be available to you as an audio cast, a prerecorded video and as a Live Stream service at 11:00 on Easter morning. The Live Cast will then be available on the Peace You Tube page.

Blessing

May the meaning of this Holy Week be firmly in our minds.

May the journey of Jesus through these last days be our journey!

May we know all the joys of faith that come with Jesus' resurrection!