

He poured water  
into a basin and began  
to wash his  
disciples' feet ...

John 13:5



**Maundy Thursday**

**April 9, 2020**

**7:00pm**

**Memorial Lutheran Church  
Reverend A.N. Mary Adelsberger, Pastor  
419-472-2161**

## Gather

### Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

### Song                    **“You Are My King”**

I'm forgiven because, You were forsaken I'm accepted, You were condemned I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me Because, You died and rose again

I'm forgiven because, You were forsaken I'm accepted, You were condemned I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me Because, You died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be That You, my King, would die for me? Amazing love, I know it's true  
It's my joy, to honor You

Amazing love, how can it be That You, my King, would die for me? Amazing love, I know it's true  
It's my joy, to honor You

You are my King, You are my King Jesus, You are my King Jesus, You are my King

Amazing love, how can it be That You, my King, would die for me? Amazing love, I know it's true  
It's my joy, to honor You In all I do, I honor You In all I do, I honor You

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil – all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism. Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

P: Most Merciful God

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: God who is rich in mercy, loved us and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **C: Amen**

## Word

### The Message

Melting your heart

Close your eyes and imagine with me the upper room. Look around you. See the disciples. See the one who will betray Jesus, see the one who will deny you. See the ones who will run and hide. See the one who will doubt you.

Open your eyes. Would you want to wash their feet? Jesus says, I want to wash the disciple's feet. They are stunned. This is a servant's job. This is a lowly job. Every home, when you entered or sat or lay down to eat had a servant to wash your feet. It was an act of hospitality. Everyone was in sandals or even bare footed. They would travel outside, walking through a myriad of things. They'd walk in the dirt, mud, grass, fields, sand, animal dung and their feet would be filthy. Mixed with the dirt, there would be sweat, dew, water or refuse covering feet. Your feet would be sore, infected, itchy. Touching others feet would be the job of a servant, the hospitality afforded by the host to make you comfortable, necessary for hygiene and cleanliness for partaking of food. It was done by a servant as you reclined for the meal. It would never be done by your rabbi, or your savior, your leader.

Peter objected immediately, and Jesus retorts. Why would he take the role of a servant? Why would he wash the dirty feet of these people who he knew would turn on him tonight, tomorrow, in the coming week? This is not the ultimate act of love, but a foreshadowing of a lamb going to slaughter, or a servant offering up the ultimate sacrifice. It was a foreshadowing of the ultimate act of love. No Peter, No, disciples, Jesus has to do this. He is the suffering servant. The lover of your soul. He is the example we all need to follow. He is offering comfort, and the washing, a symbolic offering of washing our souls.

Close your eyes again and feel all the pain you're in right now. Feel the despair, the panic, the fear, the suffering, the worry. Now, feel Jesus washing that away. Feel the warm water wash over you. Feel the warm water infused with Jesus' presence wash over you. Remember your baptism and the healing power of Christ

wash over you. Know you are loved. Know you are God's child. Know you are part of the body of believers, the body of Christ. Know the power of God. Feel his victory wash over you. Let the despair, panic, fear, suffering, worry wash away. Feel his presence only. Feel his victorious resurrection power. Feel the Spirit inspire you, empower you, forgive you.

Close your eyes yet again, pray and submit, "Thy will be done". Sounds easy when we say it. But is it really. We don't like to submit. We are in charge! We don't even like our spouses or parents to commit us to volunteering without asking us. Why would we want to do anything we didn't personally decide to ourselves? Let the water rush over you again and soften your heart to trust in God, his will, his way, his call. Say it again, with eyes and ears wide open, out loud, "Thy will be done"!

Close your eyes. Imagine yourself at the cross. Then hear and watch the savior crucified saying, "Father Forgive them" and let those words wash and melt into you. He is forgiving you. He is forgiving all your human faults. All your intentional hurting of others. All your mistakes. You are forgiven.

Close your eyes one last time and hear and watch the savior, hanging on the cross, ready to die saying, "Into your hands." And know that Jesus died for you so you might live. He trusted His father, how much more can we then trust God? Let those words come from your heart, your spirit, your mouth. Wash over the years, wash over the present trials, wash over your future plans, and know God loves you. He is planning the greatest future for you. He has made a way for you and Him to be together forever. Through His grace and mercy, His love can wash over you

### **Prayer of the day**

**C: Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

### **The First Reading**

### **Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication, <sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called. <sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me? <sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. <sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people. <sup>15</sup>Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants. <sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds. <sup>17</sup>I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD. <sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people, <sup>19</sup>in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

## **The Holy Gospel      John 13:1-17, 31b**

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. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>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." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup>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?" <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. <sup>31b</sup>"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>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.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

### **Children's Time "Foot washing"**

## **Song Jesu, Jesu Fill Us with Your Love (ELW #708)**

### *Refrain*

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, master who acts as a slave to them.

### *Refrain*

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race, neighbors are nearby and far away.

### *Refrain*

These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love; all these are neighbors to us and you.

### *Refrain*

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet: this is the way we will live with you.

### *Refrain*

## **PRAYERS**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of love, unite your church in its commitment to humble service. Make us your faithful disciples. Speak words of truth and grace through us. Encourage us in self-giving acts of kindness. Let us love one another as you have loved us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of love, tend to flocks, fields, and vineyards. Bring favorable weather for crops to grow. Guide the hands of those who cultivate, farm, and garden. Let the earth flourish so that all may eat and be satisfied. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you give us a new commandment, to have love for one another. We give thanks for organizations that respond to disasters and for agencies that offer relief and humanitarian aid to populations in need (*particular organizations may be named*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of love, give ear to all who call upon you for any need of body or spirit (*especially*). Provide for those who do not have enough to eat, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and those who rely on the generosity of others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you invite us to your table of mercy. Heal all divisions between members of this assembly. Extend the hospitality of this table beyond these walls, that your love and welcome be made known to all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of love, glorify your servants who walked by faith in this life and who now feast with you. Inspire us by the sacrifice of those who were imprisoned, persecuted, or martyred for their faith (*especially Dietrich Bonhoeffer*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Response

### The Lord's Prayer

**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**

**Stripping of the Altar** - (*Altar guild is invited forward to strip altar – Light go out*)

*This concludes the Maundy Thursday service. There is no benediction, no organ postlude. You are asked to leave the church quietly. You are encouraged to spend time in prayer to prepare your heart to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus.*