

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9, 2020 - 7:00 PM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223
www.livingspringscolumbia.org



This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

SILENT PROCESSION

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Pastor: 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.

(Silence for reflection and self examination. We kneel as able)

Pastor: Most merciful God,

People: 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.

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, 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.

People: Amen

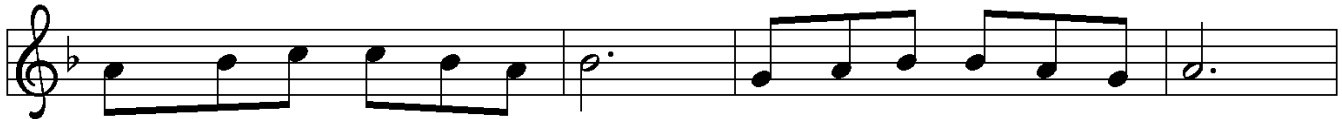
We stand as able

SHARING THE PEACE

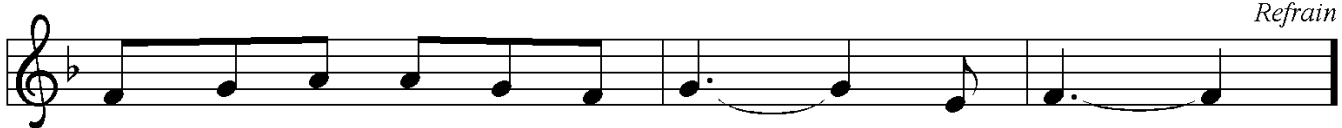
Pastor: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

Refrain

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
- 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
- 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
 all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 this is the way we will live with you.

*Refrain***GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen**



We are seated

THE FIRST READING

Lector: A reading from Exodus.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance. (Exodus 12:1-14)

Lector: Holy Wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING

Lector: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Lector: Holy Wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

(We stand for the reading of the Gospel)

THE GOSPEL READING

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

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. "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 13:1-17, 31-35)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

RITE OF FOOT-WASHING

We remember how Jesus, God's own Son, took on the role of the lowliest servant and washed his disciples feet in the Upper Room. We ponder our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to others as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

Those who desire may remove their shoes at home, taking a towel and water to wash your feet. You are invited to imagine what it must have felt like for the original disciples in the Upper Room, as Jesus' own hands held and washed their dusty feet. You may ponder the depths of loving servanthood demonstrated by Jesus for his disciples, as you listen to the flowing waters of God's grace from our Baptismal font and remember how God has washed you in the righteousness of Jesus, given you the Holy Spirit, and claimed you as God's own child. As you wash your feet, prayerfully consider your life's response to Jesus' commandment for you to love others as he has loved you—and what it would mean for you to live your life in devoted servanthood to others. Whose feet are you being called to wash (symbolically) as a servant of Christ?

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION (DURING TIME OF FOOT-WASHING)

We stand as able

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: 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 +

Pastor: 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.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: 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.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: God of love, you give us a new commandment, to have love for one another. We give thanks for medical staff, first responders, essential workers, and organizations that respond to every disaster; for servants who risk themselves to offer relief and aid to populations in need. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: God of love, give ear to all who call upon you for any need of body or spirit, especially those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and all whom we name before you now Provide for those who do not have the essentials of life, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and those who rely on the generosity of others. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: God of love, you gather us as one. Heal all divisions between members of your human family. Extend the hospitality of Christ beyond our walls, that your love and welcome be made known to all. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: 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, whom we commemorate today.* Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

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

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: **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.**

SONG OF REFLECTION

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.



We kneel as able for the sharing of Psalm 22, which Jesus himself quoted on the cross.

SOLEMN STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR - PSALM 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

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

²My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest.

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

⁴Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.

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

⁶But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people.

⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

⁸"Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him."

⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,
and kept me safe on my mother's breast.

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

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

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

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

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

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

¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.

¹⁷I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.

¹⁸They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

²⁰Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

²¹Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

²²I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Following the stripping of the altar, a time of reflection is observed.

DEPART IN SILENCE

There is no formal "Benediction" at the end of this service, as we remain in worship throughout this Holy Week worship, wherever we are - dispersed in the world. We re-convene virtually to worship together again on Good Friday evening at 7 PM.





Seasonal Emphasis

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross & follow me." Mark 8:34

MAUNDY THURSDAY:

True Presence

Are you truly present in your life? Are you truly present to others or even to yourself? Are you truly present in this moment, as you come into this space for worship? As the Three Days of Holy Week begin, we are called to a deeper, truer presence—to the story of Christ's passage through death to new life, to God's continued presence and activity in our world, and to being more deeply present to the needs of others.

This evening, Jesus comes to be truly present to his disciples as they sit down for their final meal together. As everyone is seated at one another's sides in this intimate space, many thoughts go through their minds. What will transpire here in Jerusalem? What will become of Jesus? Is it all over? Thoughts of fear, betrayal, and denial already carry them away from their places at the table. Yet Jesus has not left them. Jesus is as present as ever, present first and foremost to their needs. As he has done countless times before, he serves them. But then, stooping to his hands and knees to wash their dirty feet, Jesus calls them to practice the same kind of presence to those around them, attending to their needs, serving them, and making God's love tangible through their actions.

Beginning with Maundy Thursday, the Three Days call us into a rich, sensory, and storied experience of the final moments and mysteries of Christ's life. They invite our presence to every detail of Christ's words and actions, the movements of his disciples, the crowds and leaders, the smells, sounds, sights, tastes, and feel of the paschal mysteries. Yet tonight our presence in the story begins with Christ's presence with us. In the upper room, Christ gives his whole and true presence, his very body and blood, to free us so that we, too, may offer our whole and true presence to others.

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✠ COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY ✠

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.