



# **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**Together in Christ**

*Salem + Zion*

April 1, 2021

## INTRODUCTION

*Maundy Thursday is the beginning of the Three Days--the ancient observance of the mystery of our salvation, which plunges the faithful into the death of Jesus and brings them with him to resurrection life.*

## MAUNDY THURSDAY LITURGY

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.

## GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us make confession to God.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

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

**Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.**

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

Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### INTRODUCTION TO LECTIO DIVINA

*Lectio Divina is an ancient way of reading and praying scripture. We will read each lesson twice, with space for silence between each reading. Listen for a word or a phrase that stands out to you. Listen for something that confuses you. Reflect on what this reading means for you.*

### FIRST READING: Exodus 12: 1-14

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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 judgements: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup> 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.

*++ Silence for Reflection ++*

**HYMN REFLECTION** *“Stay with Me”*

**Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.**

**PSALM: Psalm 116:1, 10-17**

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

**How shall I repay the LORD**

**for all the good things he has done for me?**

I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon the name of the LORD.

**I will fulfill my vows to the LORD**

**in the presence of all his people.**

Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his servants.

**O LORD, I am your servant;**

**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.**

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.

**I will fulfill my vows to the LORD**

**in the presence of all his people,**

in the courts of the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

*++ Silence for Reflection ++*

**HYMN REFLECTION**

*“Stay with Me”*

**Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

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.

*++ Silence for Reflection ++*

## **HYMN REFLECTION**

*"Stay with Me"*

**Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.**

## **GOSPEL: John 13: 1-17, 31-35**

<sup>1</sup>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.

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, '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.'

++ *Silence for Reflection* ++

**HYMN INVITATION** (*I'm not fond of this phrasing, but I'm not quite sure of a better one.*) "Stay with Me"

**Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.**

## **SERMON**

### **Response Prayer "Go to Dark Gethsemane"**

**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 grief's away;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

As we begin these holy Three Days, let us offer our prayers for the life of the world.

For the whole church, that obeying the Lord's command that we love one another, we might serve one another as Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

We ask you also to remember the people present here, and those who are

absent. Preserve our households in peace and harmony; nourish the infants, instruct the children, console the elders. Comfort those whose minds are troubled, collect the scattered, bring back the wandering, and unite us all through your love, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the strife-torn regions of the world, that war might cease and love prevail, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are ill or weak in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*), that they might receive God's strength and healing, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Free those who are captive, sail with those at sea, travel with the traveler, defend the widows, shield the orphans, preserve the prisoners, heal the sick. Remember, O God, those who stand before tribunals, and those in exile and in all kinds of tribulations and accidents, and all who need your great mercy; those who love us and those who hate us, and those who have begged us to remember them in our prayers, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Preserve, this city and every city and country place from plague, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, war, battle, invasion, and riot. For our congregations, that strengthened by the Lord's Supper, we might make Christ visible through our own humble service, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering those who have died in faith, that we with them might find our place at the table of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Grant these prayers, merciful God, and all that we need, as we eagerly await the Easter feast; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(Please share the peace with your neighbors.)*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to**

**your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **THE 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 sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

*The congregation is seated as linens, ornaments, and candles are removed from the altar and chancel. As this is done, Psalm 22 is read.*

**+As part of the Three Days' Service, there is no blessing and dismissal. Instead, you are invited to leave in silence. Likewise, at the start of tomorrow's service, there will be no greeting, and you will be invited to enter in silence.**

### *For Silent Reflection*

The lights are extinguished, for the scene to be changed  
with a hollow rumble of wings,  
with a movement of darkness on darkness,  
and we know that the hills and the trees,  
the distant panorama and the bold imposing facade  
are all being rolled away—  
I said to my soul, be still,  
and wait without hope  
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing;  
wait without love,  
For love would be love of the wrong thing;  
there is yet faith  
But the faith and the love and the hope  
are all in the waiting.  
So the darkness shall be the light,  
and the stillness the dancing.

**--T.S. Eliot**