



A Meal to Save You



Maundy Thursday

April 18, 2019

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful word. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!

- Restrooms are located in the main hallway and down the hall to the left.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the narthex or room ("Shepherds Nook") located down the hall from the narthex. This room has a television showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

Serving the Lord and Serving Us:

Organ:

Joan Richmond

Ushers:

Dan Schindler, Bob Vicker

Communion Assistants:

Dave Rardin, Doug Semenske

Altar Care:

Roxanne Zikis, Lindsey Daehnke

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday derives its name from the words Jesus spoke to his disciples on this evening: “A new command I give you: Love one another” (John 13:34). The Latin translation for “command” in this passage is “mandatum”, where we get “Maundy” from. On Maundy Thursday, Christ gave a mandate to his followers — to love one another as he has loved us. He demonstrates the full extent of his love by humbly washing his disciple’s feet and by feeding them his very body and blood for their salvation. Clearly, Christ loves us more than life. Reconciled to God through the body and blood of Christ, we are empowered to follow his command to love each other.

It was on this evening nearly two thousand years ago that Jesus and his disciples gathered together in a large upper room in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This meal commemorated the deliverance of God's people from the clutches of slavery in Egypt. All the firstborn sons of Egypt died that night, but all Israel was saved. They were saved because the blood of the Passover Lamb they had sacrificed marked their doors. The angel of death saw the blood on their doorframes, and passed over their homes as he went throughout the land of Egypt killing the firstborn. This evening we celebrate the fact that Christ is our Passover Lamb. In sacrificing himself, Jesus ends the need for the Passover, and replaces it with a much greater meal when he institutes the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

The stripping of the altar: The post-communion portion of the service takes us from the upper room in Jerusalem where the disciples celebrated the Passover to the Garden of Gethsemane, in preparation for Good Friday. The altar, which is one of the most prominent symbols of Christ in the church, is solemnly stripped of its vestments in memory of the abandonment of Jesus in Gethsemane.



Holy Week

After six weeks of Lent, the Christian Year has now reached its climax. We have come to the celebration of the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is the celebration for which we have been preparing throughout Lent. Now we see what our Savior came to do.

We see him suffer and die for our sins and for the sins of the world. And we see him rise triumphantly on Easter morning to assure us that our salvation is complete, the victory is won.

Prior to the fourth century, Easter Day itself included all three emphases — Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. But the early Church fathers decided that it might be wise to spread those three emphases out over three days.

And so Maundy Thursday was formed to commemorate the beginning of Christ's suffering, as he gathers in the upper room, washes his disciples' feet, institutes the Lord's Supper, and then proceeds to the Garden of Gethsemane for prayer.

Good Friday was set aside to ponder the intensity of Christ's passion, as he is put on trial before Pontius Pilate, scourged, and crucified. On the cross, he speaks seven times before he dies.

Finally, the practice of the Easter Vigil was begun. It was not the high festival service of Easter. Rather, it was a service to prepare oneself for that festival. The Vigil was also used as the entrance rite into the Church, as converts were baptized, confirmed, and communed all during the Vigil.

The greatest theologian of the early Church, St. Augustine, called these days of special observance, "the most holy Triduum of the crucified, buried, and risen Lord." (*Triduum* is Latin for "three days".) These days, combined with Easter, have long been understood as the climax of the Church's year. Together they form a unit. As we celebrate two of these three days (Maundy Thursday and Good Friday), our worship will form a unit which will take us through our Savior's sufferings to his glorious triumph on Easter.

We Come into the Presence of God

Instruction for the End of Lent

Minister: In this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil – all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of the Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another and to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

Confession and Absolution

Minister: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness.

Congregation: Almighty God, merciful Father,

**I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.
In what I have done and left undone,
I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.
I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.
For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**

**I am truly sorry for my sins.
I repent of them.
I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

Silence for meditation

M: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**C: Cleanse me from my sins.
Release me from my guilt.
Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Exhortation

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

C: **Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on the cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this Sacrament to our eternal good, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

We Listen

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover.

¹² “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

¹⁴ “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.

Psalm 116 (*Spoken by congregation with no musical accompaniment*)

M: I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;

C: **He heard my cry for mercy.**

M: Because he turned his ear to me,

C: **I will call on him as long as I live.**

M: The LORD is gracious and righteous;

C: **When I was in great need he saved me.**

M: For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death,

C: **My eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

M: How can I repay the LORD?

C: **for all his goodness to me?**

M: I will lift up the cup of salvation

C: **and call on the name of the LORD.**

M: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,

C: **in the land of the living.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16,17

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

Hymn of the Day: #717 "When You Woke that Thursday Morning"



1 When you woke that Thurs-day morn - ing, Sav - ior,
 2 Nev - er so a - lone and lone - ly, long - ing
 3 What was there that you could give them that would
 4 One in faith, in love u - nit - ed, all one
 5 One day all the Church will cap - ture that bright



Teach - er, faith - ful Friend, Thoughts of
 with tor - ment - ed heart To be
 nev - er be out - spent, What great
 bod - y, you the head, When we
 vis - ion glo - ri - ous, And your



self and safe - ty scorn - ing, know - ing
 with your dear ones on - ly for a
 gift that would out - live them, what last
 meet, by you in - vit - ed, you are
 saints will know the rap - ture that your



how the day would end; Lamb of
 qui - et hour a - part; Sin - less
 will and tes - ta - ment? "Show me
 with us, as you said. One with
 heart de - sired for us, When the



God, fore - told for ag - es, now at last the
Lamb and fall - en crea - tures, one last pas - chal
and the world you love me, know me as the
you and one an - oth - er in a u - ni -
longed - for peace and un - ion of the great - est



hour had come When but One could pay sin's
meal to eat, One last les - son as their
Lamb of God; Do this in re - mem - brance
ty sub - lime, See in us your sis - ter,
and the least Meet in joy - ous, blest com -



wag - es: you as - sumed their dread - ful sum.
teach - er, wash - ing your dis - ci - ples' feet.
of me, eat this bod - y, drink this blood."
broth - er, one in ev - 'ry place and time.
mun - ion in your nev - er - end - ing feast.

The hymn writer Jaroslav Vajda vividly recounts the events of Maundy Thursday as they may have looked from the perspective of our Savior.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: MAUNDY (87 87 D) David A. Schack, b. 1947 © 1992 David A. Schack. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Sermon: Matthew 26:17-30

¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹⁸ He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"

²³ Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "You have said so."

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

We Respond

Offering *(If you are a guest in our church, please do not feel obligated to participate. We do not want you to think that God or our congregation is soliciting funds from you; you enrich us simply by being here.)*

Offertory: "Behold the Lamb of God" *(Arranged by Valerie Floeter)*

Piano: Paula Danekas

Prayer of the Church

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.**

Small Group Choir: "Come to the Table"

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Come to the table, where Jesus said to come on the night he was abandoned, denied, and betrayed. He invited his disciples and for us to do the same: This is my body, this is my blood given to forgive the sins of ev'ryone. Take and eat the bread; take and drink the wine. Do this in remembrance of me.

Come to the table, where Jesus said to come. Overwhelmed by my offenses and the guilt that I feel, I will welcome the assurance Jesus offers in this meal: This is my body, this is my blood given to forgive the sins of ev'ryone. Take and eat the bread; take and drink the wine. Do this in remembrance of me.

Come to the table, where Jesus said to come. When my earthly life is over, I'll kneel at his throne, and we'll eat and drink together in our everlasting home. This is my body, this is my blood given to forgive the sins of ev'ryone. Take and eat the bread; take and drink the wine. Do this in remembrance of me. Do this in remembrance of me.

The Sacrament

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

M: Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

C: **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glory.**

**You are my God, and I will exalt you.
I will give you thanks for you have become my salvation.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glory.**

The Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all for you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

O Christ, Lamb of God

M: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: **Have mercy on us.**

M: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: **Have mercy on us.**

M: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: **Grant us your peace. Amen.**

Prayer of Preparation

M: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we lift up our hearts with thanksgiving and praise. Through the blood of your covenant, you have made us worthy to receive your Holy Supper. In this sacrament, time and eternity meet as we celebrate a foretaste of the feast now enjoyed by all who are in heavenly glory.

As we receive your true body and blood, we rejoice in our salvation through you, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Distribution: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
(by Lowell Mason; arranged by Tom Fettke)

Vocalists: Casey Kippes and Amanda Bergemann
Accompanist: Heidi Rusch

Closing Prayer

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn: #104, verses 1-2 “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 griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment hall;
View the Lord of life arraigned.
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, pain, or loss;
Learn of him to bear the cross.**

The Betrayal and Arrest of Our Lord

Matthew 26:47-56

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." ⁴⁹ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

⁵⁰ Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁵² "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

⁵⁵ At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled."

Stripping of the altar

Candles extinguished — *Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” The events of Good Friday snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when he suffered, so we extinguish our candles.*

Hymnal removed — *The hymnal guides our worship together as we hear his Word and respond with prayer and songs of praise. As Jesus suffers, these normally joyful sounds grow quiet.*

Offering plates removed – *The offering plates contain our gifts of gratitude to our God. As they are removed, we remember how Jesus offered himself on the cross as the ultimate gift to the world.*

Communion vessels removed — *Jesus offered his body and blood as the payment for our sins. They have been given to us in, with and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Supper. As he was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.*

Altar cloth removed — *As Jesus was stripped of his clothing and of his dignity before he was crucified, so we remove the altar cloth from on top of the altar.*

The altar is draped in black — *Our altar is where our Lord Jesus serves us his body and blood at his banquet feast. It is draped in black to remind us of the death of our Savior on our behalf.*

Musical offering: “Erbarme dich, mein Gott”¹

(Aria No. 39 from “St. Matthew Passion” by J.S. Bach.)

Violin: Kristen Wiersum

Piano: Heidi Rusch



¹Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) is considered one of the greatest musical composers of all time. He was a Lutheran who held firmly to God’s Word, inscribing the words “Jesus, help me!” at the beginning of many scores of his music, and “To God alone be the glory!” at the end of his music.

In his work “St. Matthew Passion”, he sets chapters 26 and 27 of the Gospel of Matthew to music, with interspersed chorales and arias. It is widely regarded as one of the masterpieces of classical sacred music.

In the Passion, the piece *Erbarme dich, mein Gott* (“Have mercy, my God”) reflects Peter’s heartache after he denies knowing Jesus three times. In the sung aria, the German is translated: *“Have mercy, my God, for the sake of my tears! See here, before you, heart and eyes weep bitterly. Have mercy, my God.”* The violinist Yehudi Menuhin called the aria’s lamenting solo violin part *“the most beautiful piece of music ever written for the violin.”*

As we hear the piece played while the altar is stripped, we reflect on the beautiful demonstration of love that Jesus shows to Peter and to us who feel the guilt of our sin. Jesus lets himself be taken away to death that we might be taken to live without tears in his presence forever. What mercy, O Lord our God!

Announcements

Welcome!

We give a warm welcome to everyone at worship. We are glad that you are here and invite you to return again to celebrate our living Lord. Visit us at 525 63rd Street, Downers Grove, contact us at 630-852-1519 or check us out on the web at www.gsdg.org

Good Friday: The Seven Words, a Service of Darkness

April 19 at 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm

On this day, darkness blanketed the earth from noon until 3:00 pm, as our Savior endured the pains of hell, hanging from a cross. But Christ's suffering means our salvation. In this worship service, we use the ancient custom of "Tenebrae", Latin for "darkness." Throughout the service, as we meditate upon our Savior's passion, lights are dimmed and candles snuffed. This symbolizes the ebbing of Christ's life. The somberness of this worship serves as a foil, making the joy of Easter Sunday all that much brighter.

Easter Sunday: Risen to Free Us!

April 21 at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

He is risen indeed! On Easter morning we celebrate the fact the Jesus has risen from the dead to save us. His resurrection is the proof positive that we stand before God as forgiven children, free from condemnation and hell, and that we will live forever in heaven. A congregational breakfast will be offered between services, beginning at 9:00 am.

Acknowledgements

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