

Maundy Thursday

April 9, 2020

"VESPERS"**Verse:* O Lord, open Thou my lips.***Response:* And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.***Verse:* Make haste, O God, to deliver me.***Response:* Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be, forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

The Psalm.—Psalm 116:12-19 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹²What shall I render to the Lord
for all his benefits to me?

¹³**I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord,**

¹⁴I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵**Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his saints.**

¹⁶O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the Lord.

¹⁸**I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,**

¹⁹in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen**

The Hymn. "Jesus, Greatest at the Table"*by Stephen P. Starke, 1955-present***LSB #446***Tune: "New Malden"*

1. Jesus, greatest at the table,
The almighty Son of Man,
Laid aside his outer clothing,
Poured some water in a pan;
As the Twelve lay, hushed in silence,
He the servant's task began.
2. Marvel how their Lord and Teacher
Gently taught them not to vie,
As He humbly knelt before them,
Dusty feet to wash and dry;
By His tender touch expressing
True compassion from on high.
3. Jesus took the role of servant
When upon that gruesome span,
For all human sin he suffered
As a vile and loathsome man;
On the cross poured out like water
To fulfill the Father's plan.
4. Can we fathom such deep mercy?
Do we see what God has done?
Who can grasp this great reversal:
Love that gives His only Son?
Christ, the sinless for the sinners,
For the many dies the One.

5. Jesus gave to His disciples
A commandment that was new:
"Show My love to one another,
Do as I have done for you;
All the world will know you love me
As you love each other too."

Concordia Publishing House 2001

*Text: John 13:1-7; Phil. 2:5-8; 2 Cor. 8:9, 1 John 4:9-11 Tune: David McCarthy 1931
1975 Stainer & Bell Ltd., Trustees for Methodist Church (UK). Admin. Hope Publishing Co.*

The Lessons from Holy Scripture.

The Scripture Lessons shall then be read, then a Versicle and Response may be sung or said:

The Old Testament.

Exodus 12:1-14 (ESV)

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷ "Then 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. ⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.

¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

Versicle: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer. Thanks be to God.

The Epistle.

1 Corinthians 11:23-32 (ESV)

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Versicle: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer. Thanks be to God.

The Responsory for Lent.

Verse: Deliver me, O Lord, my God,
For You are the God of my salvation.

**Response: Rescue me from my enemies,
Protect me from those who rise against me.**

Verse: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust,
Leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**Response: Rescue me from my enemies,
Protect me from those who rise against me.**

Verse: Deliver me, O Lord, my God,
For You are the God of my salvation.

**Response: Rescue me from my enemies,
Protect me from those who rise against me.**

The Holy Gospel.

John 13:1-17, 31-35 (ESV)

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, **having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.** 2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 8 Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you."

11 For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. 33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Versicle: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer. Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

"HE LOVED THEM TO THE END"

John 13:1b

LOVED BY THE CROSS?

Jesus has a NEW Commandment?

Yes He does; He commands us to "Love one another as I have loved you." It's a mandate! Love God. Love your neighbor. The Romans called the mandate, "mandatum." And "mandatum" is what makes us call this Holy Thursday—"Maundy" Thursday.

All right, I recognize that you may have heard before the commandment to love. Certainly the portion of the commandment “to love one another” is not new. The entire Second tablet of God’s Law that Moses brought down from the mountain says that we should “love one another.” As if that were not enough, it’s the First tablet that causes the real problems—we are to “fear, love and trust God above all things.” He is the one true God; so, we are NOT to make another person, place, or thing as the center of our affections. There are no other gods. And when God’s name is on us, we should not misuse it. And once we belong to God, we should remember to rest in His Holiness.

Now, we can easily see when we have not loved each other. We should honor mom dad and anyone who reminds us of them; don’t murder; don’t be sexually unfaithful; don’t steal; don’t gossip, slander or defame; and don’t covet stuff or covet relationships. Help other people at all times. If you cannot love those whom you can see; how can you love God whom you cannot see? And how will you see how God has loved you?

We have John’s Gospel, chapter 13 verse 1: “Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, **having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.**” On the cross Jesus poured out His love for you. Jesus, bodily laid in your tomb, and your sin hit the end. Past the end, on the third day, resurrection light split the darkness.

The time was the Passover, during the first month of the year. A millennia and a half before Christ, slaves in the house prayed under the blood of the lamb. God heard their cry, and they would become a people who would cross the Sea, ... on foot!

This foot thing is what is happening at the beginning of the Passover meal. The Master is doing the washing of His disciples’ feet. Peter is a little uncomfortable. I get it! Unless you are a podiatrist, or a nurse, or a masseuse, you are not used to dealing with people’s feet. I do recognize a few exceptions—if my wife, or kids, or grandkids need their feet washed, I

would do it. Okay, I would wash the dog’s feet as well. But if you came to me and asked me to wash your feet—well, we’re just not that familiar!

AWASH IN LOVE?

So how can we become more familiar with God and with each other? By birth! Not by fleshly birth. But, by being born from above. We were born dead to God. But being baptized into Christ we are alive to God—our Father who made us, His Son who redeemed us, and His Holy Spirit who breathes new life and faith in us. How?

Well, what is Baptism?

(see Luther’s Small Catechism, CPH)

Baptism is not *just* plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.

Well, which is that word of God?

(Matt. 28:19)

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew’s Gospel: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

So, what benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

(Mark 16:16)

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not *just* water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom

He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5–8)

So what does Baptismal washing have to do with the Holy Thursday and the Lord’s Supper?

Jesus gives us a clue when He says, “Not all of you are clean.” (*John 13:11*) Of course he was referring to Judas. But, “unclean” applies to more than Judas. We are all “unclean”. It’s a harsh thing to hear. In the military we train to survive in a nuclear, biological, and chemical war zone. Unclean is a horrible thing to hear if you’ve put aside your Mission Oriented Protective Posture equipment and suddenly hear “Alarm Black” in the Toxic Free Area. It’s like being on a cruise ship that had someone pop positive with Covid 19.

Baptism is a new birth, reforming us in Christ whose life blood was poured out. By means of God’s Word and water transaction, He buries our sin. And God’s Holy Spirit, breathing over the water, renews and regenerates us in the Risen Christ. Our baptism has a claim on us, daily, as we walk with Christ in this war zone of the world. We long for His presence in heaven, the fullness of His Holy Communion.

KNOWN BY LOVE

Alive to God, we will share a small taste of His Holy Communion at His Table, before His Altar. Jesus shares a relational and Divine oneness with Father and the Holy Spirit. He and the Father and the Holy Spirit are one and yet they are three distinct persons. He desires that we may be one, in Him, with the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit. I do not understand the mystery of this unity, but I confess it, and I long for the presence of God, here in time, and hereafter in eternity.

This is the real hardship of Christians in a Pandemic protocol. We long to be together with those who are like-minded in Christ, to share His meal with His people. But, we wait for the real gathering where He assures us of His real

presence. Like a warrior who longs for his bride, there is a waiting for the redeployment. Homecoming kisses are sweet. And family members wash each other’s feet. But for now, we encourage one another and we wait.

Jesus entered the end of the Passover meal with great longing. In Luke’s Gospel (22:15,16) Jesus said, **“I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”** Certainly, He came from above. More than that, He desired to be in, with and under His people. He suffered for us, was crucified, died, and was buried for us. From His conception to His crucifixion, He understood us all. He was buried, and from the shouts of Victory over hell, He came again in the grave splitting resurrection. From His Resurrection flowed His Ascension, and from His Ascension flowed His real presence, He is filling heaven and earth. The Creator is now Redeemer of His creation. In, with, and under the bread and cup, He gives His true body and blood for those who share His name, and the confession of the same, to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. This is the Shalom of the Prince of Peace. This is the Health from the Great Physician. This is a foretaste of the Feast to Come, the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. And we should check the Name that is upon us before we partake.

Are you not baptized in Christ? Come quickly to the waters of baptism where, the old is drown and the new arises under a new name with a new commandment. **Are you already baptized in Christ?** Then know that we are not just to love one another; but, to love one another **as I have loved you.** God’s love in Christ dwells in us. By our Baptisms into Christ, all will know that we are washed in Christ—buried in His death, risen in His life. Even our dusty feet are beautiful as we come up from the Word and water and bring Good News to others. What is this Good News? Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Others will know that we are one in Him. They will know we are Christians by our Love. For our God is Love. Come to His Holy House as soon as possible to hear His Holy Word and receive His Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen.

*Give your offerings to God in thanksgiving for your life.
A tithe from your "daily bread" may be sent to your house of worship.*

The Canticle.

Verse: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

Response: The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

The Magnificat—Song of Mary.

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;

For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty One has done great things to me,

and holy is His name;

And His mercy is on those who fear Him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with His arm;

He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones

and has exalted the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich He has sent empty away.

**He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Prayer. *Kyrie*

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Then all shall say:

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Verse: O Lord, hear my prayer.

Response: And let my cry come to You.

Collect.

O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that we turn from our wickedness and live. Graciously behold Your people who plead to You and spare us. Withdraw the scourge of Your wrath and be moved in mercy to turn away this pestilence from us; for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for Peace.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto Thy servants that peace, which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that by Thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Benedicamus.

Verse: Let us bless the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

The Benediction.

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

Amen.

The Hymn. Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB #436

by James Montgomery, 1771-1854

1. Go to dark Gethsemane,
You 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.

2. Follow to the judgment hall;
View the Lord of life arraigned;
O the worm-wood and the gall!
O the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn of Him to bear the cross.

3. Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark the miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" Hear the cry;
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

4. Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom;
Who hath taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes:
Savior, teach us so to rise.

*From The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Richard Redhead, 1820-1901*

Tune: Gethsemane

At the close of the Service silent prayer should be offered.

** Vespers Text from: Lutheran Service Book
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