



*“O come, let us fix our eyes on **Jesus**,
the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before Him
endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of
the throne of God.”*

(Gradual for Lent, based on Hebrews 12:2)

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Maundy Thursday

April 9, 2020

As We Gather

This Lent, we will use the metaphor of eyesight to examine how the various people in Mark's Gospel viewed Jesus during His Passion. In most cases, they misunderstood who He was and what He was doing; then again, sometimes by faith people did recognize Him correctly.

As we conclude these forty days of Lent, looking within ourselves as people of faith in our day, we again ask how we are like or unlike the people who saw Jesus in the flesh. Most important, as we gather for worship, we see again what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death.

It is difficult for us to look through the eyes of the disciples when they were celebrating Passover, but it was within that context that Jesus pronounced the bread and wine to be His body and blood. Today, it is within the liturgy of the Lord's Supper that our Lord's words call us to recognize more than meets our physical eyes. What do we perceive?

Our Maundy Thursday worship will likely seem even more out of sync with our expectations and prior experiences than the other online services that we have had to date. In our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod circles, the primary focus and purpose of Maundy Thursday is to remember Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper on the night He was betrayed and then to celebrate His Supper, receiving His very body and blood, in with, and under the bread and wine and with it the forgiveness of all our sins and a refreshing of our eternal life. Although the focus of this service will remain the Lord's Supper, because of the CoVid-19 pandemic, we cannot be gathered here in the Lord's house to receive it. However, we will be offering the Lord's Supper on a drive through basis on Maundy Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. Please see the email blast you were sent regarding our drive through communion this last weekend or our website for instructions on how we will safely accomplish the drive through communion distribution.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Hymn: “When You Woke that Thursday Morning”

LSB # 445:1-3

Sung to the tune of “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” LSB 700

1. When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin’s wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.

2. Never so alone and lonely,
Longing with tormented heart
To be with Your dear ones only
For a quiet hour apart:
Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
One last paschal meal to eat,
One last lesson as their teacher,
Washing Your disciples’ feet.

3 What was there that You could give them
That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them,
What last will and testament?
“Show Me and the world you love Me,
Know Me as the Lamb of God:
Do this in remembrance of Me,
Eat this body, drink this blood.”

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The Passion of Our Lord:

Mark 14:22-25

ESV

P Today, our worship begins with the Passion reading and the sermon so that the liturgy may then move uninterrupted from Confession and Absolution to the preparation for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday evening – and then on to Good Friday and the cross. Jesus reveals that the disciples are receiving more than bread and wine at the Passover on the night in which He was betrayed. *The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark, the 14th chapter.*

P As they were eating, [Jesus] took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is My body.” And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon:

“More than Meets the Eye”

Mark 14:22-25

P The Lord’s Supper is a mystery, for the reality of it cannot be seen with human eyes. As in stanza 4 of the hymn we are about to sing, “Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery; God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be”. We sing hymn 628.

Hymn:

“Your Table I Approach”

LSB # 628:1,3-4,6



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

6. Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

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Address

P On Ash Wednesday, there were physical signs of our penitence, visible in the mirror and to everyone we met. The ashes were placed on each of our individual foreheads. Soon, many of us may be receiving our Lord’s body and blood, somehow in, with, and under the bread and wine – certainly more than our physical eyes can perceive. But we cannot commune with our Lord so intimately, sinners that we are. Penitence is not enough. We need God’s forgiveness, assured thereby that God’s Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, has staved off the death sentence our sins deserve as surely as the Passover lamb’s blood told the angel of death to pass over the Israelite homes so long ago. Let us therefore confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Confession

P Together we confess:

C O almighty God, merciful Father, we are by nature sinful and unclean, and we confess to You that we have failed to see You present in our daily living. In addition to our faults that are visible to the people around us, You know our secret thoughts, our whispered words, and our furtive actions. For these, and other sins we have hidden even from ourselves, we are heartily sorry. We repent of them and pray that You will show us mercy for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter suffering and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A pause for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Forgiveness

P "From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides [the Lord], who acts for those who wait for Him" (Isaiah 64:4). As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it" *1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*. The peace of the Lord be with you all. Amen.

Kyrie

P Let us pray to the Lord:

For the peace from above and for our salvation, visible in the Lord's Supper;

For peace the whole world may see;

for the well-being of the Church of God;

and for the unity of all who see in Christ their Savior;

For all members of the body of Christ who show their faith in worship and praise, whether here or in their homes. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament, You have left us a remembrance of Your Passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading:

Exodus 12:1-14

ESV

P When the Israelites were captive in Egypt, God instructed them to put lamb's blood on their doorposts as a visible sign for the angel of death to pass over them. So that they would always remember that night, they were to observe the Passover Seder, a meal prepared and eaten as God directed them. *The Old Testament Reading for Holy Thursday is from the 12th chapter of Exodus.*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. 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. 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. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, 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.

"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. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 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. 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. 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.

"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."

P This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Epistle:

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

ESV

P Paul reminds us that in the Sacrament we are visibly proclaiming what onlookers miss: the Lord’s death, His body and blood, until He returns. *The Epistle is from the 11th chapter of First Corinthians.*

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, 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.” 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.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

P This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Credal Hymn:

“We All Believe in One True God”

Public Domain; *LSB # 953*



1 We all be-lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
2 We all be-lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and Mar - y’s son,
3 We all con-fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both in truth pro-ceeds,



Ev - er - pres - ent help in need, Praised by all the heav’n - ly host;
Who de - scend - ed from His throne And for us sal - va - tion won;
Who sus - tains and com-forts us In all tri - als, fears, and needs.



All He made His love en-folds, All cre - a - tion He up-holds.
By whose cross and death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y.
Bless-ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty, Praise for - ev - er be to Thee!

Holy Gospel:

John 13:1-15, 34-35

ESV

P As He washes their feet, Jesus opens the disciples' eyes to what true servanthood means. *The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.* Glory to You, O Lord.

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. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, 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, rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. 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.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?"

Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand."

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."

Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

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." For He knew who was to betray Him; that was why He said, "Not all of you are clean."

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? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. . . . 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. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day:

“Jesus, Greatest at the Table”

LSB # 446

Sung to the tune of LSB # 353 “Jesus Came the Heavens Adoring

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.

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.”

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Prayers of the Church

- P On this holy night in which our Lord gathered His disciples in the Upper Room, we come to You, O Lord, in His name with the concerns of our hearts for ourselves and all people.
- P Grant to us zeal for Your house, O Lord, and love for the things of Your Kingdom. Preserve those who are unable to gather together as they wish, and grant them their desire quickly. Give Your Church harmony and peace to confess Your Word with one voice before the world. Cover us with the blood of Jesus, and grant us Your Spirit, that we may walk in Your ways and do the good You desire. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- P O Lord, give to us faithful pastors who will preach Your Word in season and out, and give us ears and hearts willing to hear and heed Your voice. Raise up godly men to serve us as pastors, and raise up godly men and women to serve as teachers and in other offices for Your service. Bless those preparing for full-time church work in our colleges and seminaries as well as those considering church-work careers. Do not let the world’s fears turn them from a faithful and devoted ministry. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- P Deliver us, O Lord, from every temptation, and lead us to know and do what is holy and right according to Your Word and commands. Bless those preparing for Baptism and those being catechized into the faith, that they would be steadfast in faith in Jesus, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

- P In the midst of plagues and enemies that threaten and a world filled with conflict and terror, give us wise leaders at the local, state, and national levels, O Lord, that we may be preserved from harm. Guide those who make and administer our laws and regulations to act in timely and prudent ways, and give to all judges knowledge to render justice with mercy. Bless all military, emergency and medical workers who defend and help us here and abroad. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- P As generously as You have given to us, O Lord, teach us to be generous in giving, that the poor may not suffer want nor Your Church be deprived of the resources to serve Your purpose both here and around the world. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- P Have mercy, Lord, spare Your people and turn this pandemic away! Preserve the sick, comfort the fearful and grant to the dying and those who mourn them Your peace. Hear us on behalf of all those who have asked us to pray for them. Give us healing in accordance with Your will, strength to bear up under the burdens of this mortal life, and comfort and hope in this and every trial. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- P Whenever we commune, give us Your Word and Spirit, O Lord, that we may discern Your Son's presence in bread and cup and leave His table with the good conscience of sins forgiven. Always keep us in repentance, that we may not be overcome by sin, but pursue goodness and righteousness all our days. Protect and cleanse the lips of those who eat and drink, and remove their fears, for Jesus' testament is the promise to strengthen us in body and soul to life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- P Heavenly Father, Your Son instituted the most blessed Sacrament of His body and blood to eat and to drink, that what is promised in His testament may be truly received by His friends and heirs. Have mercy on all who are kept from Your table in these extraordinary circumstances, and do not shut them out of Your Supper forever. Let the words of this testament echo in their ears and hearts and, in true faith, let them believe these words, trusting that they receive spiritually in faith exactly what Your Son has both won and declared: the forgiveness of sins. Stir up in us a desire to commune with our fellow Christians on Your true body and blood, and bring us soon to the table. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- P Almighty and loving Father, guide and bless all of the members of our Mt. Olive Lutheran School community – faculty, staff, students, and families – as we continue in an online teaching and learning mode. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

At this time other petitions, spoken or silent, may be prayed, each ending

P ... Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

P You know, O Lord, what we need, and You have promised never to abandon us. Help us to endure in faith and, with a joyful countenance, receive the blessings of Your grace and the answers to our prayers; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:
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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for in Your great love You freed us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of Your Son. In His suffering, death, and resurrection, Your mercy and power were made visible to all who saw Him during His earthly sojourn and to us, who see Him by faith. Grant that when we eat the bread and drink the cup of Jesus' Supper in true faith, that we shall enjoy the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Grant us to show forth His death until we join all the faithful at the heavenly banquet of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini *≈ The Peace of the Lord*

P When you commune, together, in, with, and under the bread and the wine, you receive the very body and blood of our crucified but risen Savior, Jesus Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, therefore, the peace of the Lord is with you always. Amen

