



Thursday, April 1, 2021 6:00 P.M.

THE THREE DAYS MauNDy Thursday

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as Christ has loved us, let us love one another.

Worshippers are invited to light a candle.

Beloved people of God:

This is the day when Christ, our Passover Lamb, surrendered himself to those who would kill him, setting us free from sin and death forever.

This is the day when Christ, our Teacher and Lord, knelt down to wash the disciples' feet, showing us how to love and serve one another.

This is the day when Christ, the bread of heaven, shared a holy meal with his followers, offering a feast of abundant life and grace for all.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, your love is embodied in Jesus Christ, who washed disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal. Wash us from the stain of sin, so that, in hours of danger, we may not fail, but

follow your Son through every trial, and praise him always as Lord and Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN 206

This is the Night

MY NEIGHBOR

1. This is the night, dear friends, the night for weeping,
when powers of darkness overcome the day,
the night the faithful mourn the weight of evil
whereby our sins the Son of Man betray.
2. This night the traitor, wolf within the sheepfold,
betrays himself into his victim's will,
the Lamb of God for sacrifice preparing:
sin brings about the cure for sin's own ill.
3. This night Christ institutes his holy supper,
blest food and drink for heart and soul and mind;
this night injustice joins its hand to treason's,
and buys the ransom-price of humankind.
4. This night the Lord by slaves shall be arrested,
he who destroys our slavery to sin;
accused of crime, to criminals be given,
that judgment on the righteous Judge begin.
5. O make us sharers, Savior, of your Passion,
that we may share your glory that shall be;
let us pass through these three dark nights of sorrow
to Easter's laughter and its liberty.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rom. 5:8; Heb. 4:16

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Silence is kept for personal confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your

mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us one again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.

SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 551)

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN 203

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

CHEROPONI

Refrain:

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.**

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. [Refrain]
2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race;
neighbors are near us and far away. [Refrain]
3. These are the ones we should serve;
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. [Refrain]
4. Loving puts us on our knees,
willing to wash others' feet;
this is the way we should live like you. [Refrain]

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, by your Word and Spirit, you have given us a new commandment: to love and serve one another in Jesus' name. Let the good news of your liberating love be sealed in our hearts and shown in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Here ends the Psalm. **Amen.**

John 13:1-35
The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Liberating and redeeming God, we give thanks that you hear the cries of your people. Therefore, in our time of trial, we call upon your name, saying: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As you delivered our ancestors from slavery and led them to land of promise and plenty, liberate all who are captive or oppressed and bring them to a place of abundant life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As you saved your people from death on the night of the Passover, redeem us from sin and death through Jesus Christ the Lamb. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord stooped down to wash his disciples' feet, teach us to love and serve our neighbors with Christlike compassion and humility. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As Christ the Lord has handed on to us a feast of grace in his body and blood, help us to share with all who hunger the gifts we have received from you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our liberator and redeemer, we give thanks that you have heard our cry. Continue to lead us from death to life eternal, and let our lives be a sign of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARIST

HYMN 525

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

1. Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees...
3. Let us praise God together on our knees...

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, we give you thanks for the feast of redemption we have shared in the body and blood of our Savior. As you have nourished us with your love, let our lives proclaim your great love for the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

At some point while Psalm 88 is being read, you are invited to extinguish your candle.

Psalm 88

Prayer for Help in Despondency

¹O Lord, God of my salvation,
when, at night, I cry out in your presence,
²let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry.
³For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
⁴I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;
I am like those who have no help,
⁵like those forsaken among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.
⁶You have put me in the depths of the Pit,
in the regions dark and deep.
⁷Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.
⁸You have caused my companions to shun me;
you have made me a thing of horror to them.
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
⁹ my eye grows dim through sorrow.
Every day I call on you, O Lord;
I spread out my hands to you.
¹⁰Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the shades rise up to praise you?
¹¹Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
¹²Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?
¹³But I, O Lord, cry out to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
¹⁴O Lord, why do you cast me off?
Why do you hide your face from me?
¹⁵Wretched and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.
¹⁶Your wrath has swept over me;
your dread assaults destroy me.
¹⁷They surround me like a flood all day long;

from all sides they close in on me.
¹⁸You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me;
my companions are in darkness.

After the reading, silence is kept. There is no benediction.

The service continues on Good Friday at noon.