

# **Home Worship for Passion Week**

## **April 9, 2020**

### **Maundy Thursday**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMC)  
Springfield, GA

#### **CONFESSION**

Let us make our confession to God.

**Almighty God, merciful Father:**

**I, a troubled and penitent sinner,  
confess to you all my sins and iniquities  
with which I have offended you  
and for which I justly deserve your punishment.**

**But I am sorry for them,  
and repent of them,  
and pray for your boundless mercy.**

**For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
be gracious and merciful to me,  
a poor sinful being;  
forgive my sins,  
give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life,  
and bring me to life everlasting. Amen**

#### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

#### **GREETING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Lord God, in a wonderful Sacrament you have left us a memorial of your suffering and death. May this Sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the way we live will proclaim the redemption you have brought; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

#### **FIRST LESSON:**

**Exodus 12:1-14**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> “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. <sup>8</sup> They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup> And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> “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.

**PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 116:12-19**

- <sup>12</sup> How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things he has done for me?  
<sup>13</sup> **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD.**  
<sup>14</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.  
<sup>15</sup> **Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his servants.**  
<sup>16</sup> O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.  
<sup>17</sup> **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.**  
<sup>18</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,  
<sup>19</sup> **in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

**SECOND LESSON: I Corinthian 11:23-32**

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, <sup>24</sup>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.” <sup>25</sup>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.” <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup>For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. <sup>30</sup>That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. <sup>31</sup>But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup>But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL John 13:1-17, 32-35**

**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. <sup>2</sup>During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <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 back to God, <sup>4</sup>rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <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 wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup>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." <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, "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." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup>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? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup>If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them ... <sup>31b</sup>Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>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.' <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### ***CALLED TO REMEMBER***

**Pastor Jim**

Today is Maundy Thursday. What is "Maundy Thursday"? The term "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning commandment. Maundy refers to the new commandment that Jesus gave His disciples on the night He was betrayed. While celebrating the Passover, Jesus instituted the Eucharist (the Thanksgiving). We know this fulfillment of the Passover as the Lord's Supper, the Last Supper, Communion, or Holy Communion. In the upper room, with His disciples gathered around Him, Jesus, the Lamb of God, explained the meaning of the Passover. Jesus, God's perfect Lamb, who have His body broken and His blood shed for the remission of our sins.

It was in this setting that Jesus set an example for His followers. He washed their feet. He served them. He gave Himself completely to them and to us, as He offered Himself as the Lamb of God that takes away our sin. Jesus also said, "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" (John 13:35). This is the meaning of Maundy Thursday. We are called to remember the example of Jesus, the words of Jesus, and the actions of Jesus.

As we remember the historic events of Maundy Thursday as recorded for us by John, we need to remember the personal significance of what Jesus did for us; "what he did for me." We can only fully understand the events of the Maundy Thursday, the whole of Passion Week, and the Resurrection as we begin with remembering our own sin.

Let us hear God's Word as He speaks to us personally and individually regarding our need to remember: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned to our own way" (Isaiah 53:6); "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23); "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23a); "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins" (Ephesians 2:1).

God called King David, "... a man after his own heart; and the LORD has appointed him to be ruler over his people..." (I Samuel 13:14) but we all know that David was far from perfect. His sins caught up with him and he confessed, "For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:3-5). Six (6) times David refers to his own unrighteousness as he acknowledges his own sin.

On this Maundy Thursday, we are called to remember our sin and our need for the Saviour, the Lamb of God, who alone bore our sin, suffer God's wrath and judgment for us, in our place. We need to remember and to confess our sin.

We also are called to remember God's love! In Romans 5:8-9, the apostle Paul wrote, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

In like manner, the apostle John, the beloved disciple, wrote, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (I John 1:8-9)

Concerning the love of God, the "good news" of the Gospel, the great reformer, Martin Luther, said that John 3:16 is the Gospel in miniature – "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

As we look at our Second Lesson, we read these words: "...the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (I Corinthians 11:23b-26)

Finally, we need to remember who we are in Christ. We are not our own, we are new creations, we are born-again! By God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to the Holy Scriptures alone, we have been redeemed, forgiven, and are now the children of God!

Again, turning to the words of John and Paul, we are told: "He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:11f) and "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (II Corinthians 5:17).

German Lutheran pastor and theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote, "When Jesus Christ calls a man, he bids him, 'Come and die!'" Bonhoeffer was the son of a leading authority on psychology, neurology, and a university professor. As a young man he turned away from a life of prestige and privilege to become a pastor and a theologian. He was living in the United States when Hitler came to power in Germany. Bonhoeffer didn't have to go back to Germany. He could have stayed in the United States but he was moved by his love for the Christians of his native Germany.

You see, Bonhoeffer could never escape these words of Jesus, "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. <sup>35</sup> By

this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34)

On April 9, 1945 – seventy-five years ago today – inside his prison cell in Flossenburg concentration camp, Bonhoeffer wrote, “When Jesus Christ calls a man, he bids him, ‘Come and die!’” Within a few hours after writing those words, a rope was placed around the neck of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and he was hanged because of his love for Christ and his stand against Hitler. His last recorded words were these, “This is the end—for me, the beginning of life.”

Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Whoever loves his life loses it ... <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves me, he must follow me ... <sup>27</sup> Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour ... <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (John 12:24ff)

That is the story of the Gospel — Jesus came for us! He came for you and for me! On this Maundy Thursday, you and I are called to remember the promises and the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. On this night, as we prepare our hearts for the victory of the resurrection and the celebration of Easter, we need to remember: (1) that we are nothing but poor sinners, (2) our salvation is not of our own, is the gift of God, we are saved by His grace; and (3) that we are new creatures in Christ – the old has gone, all things are become new and Christ, having given His life for us, has also given us a “new commandment” to love as He loves. We are called to love God as He loves God and to love our neighbor as He loves us.

Thanks be to God!

## THE PRAYERS

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

L 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:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those in any need, for prisoners and the condemned, for the homeless and the hungry, for the lost and alone, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For our congregation, that strengthened by the Lord's supper, we might make Christ visible through our own humble service, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L 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.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

L Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

*At this point in the service, if we were gathered at Holy Trinity)  
the altar would be stripped and black drapes placed over it to  
prepare us for the continuation of our worship on "Good Friday"  
as we remember the death of our Saviour.*

**Reading of Psalm 22**

- <sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me  
and are so far from my cry, and from the words of my distress?
- <sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer;  
by night as well, but I find no rest.
- <sup>3</sup> Yet you are the Holy One,  
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> Our forefathers put their trust in you;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- <sup>5</sup> They cried out to you and were delivered;  
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- <sup>6</sup> But as for me, I am a worm and no man,  
scorned by all and despised by the people.
- <sup>7</sup> All who see me laugh me to scorn;  
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- <sup>8</sup> "He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him;  
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."
- <sup>9</sup> Yet you are he who took me out of the womb,  
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
- <sup>10</sup> I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;  
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.
- <sup>11</sup> Be not far from me, for trouble is near,  
and there is none to help.
- <sup>12</sup> Many young bulls encircle me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
- <sup>13</sup> They open wide their jaws at me,  
like a ravening and a roaring lion.
- <sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- <sup>15</sup> My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;  
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
- <sup>16</sup> Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me;  
they pierce my hands and my feet, I can count all my bones.
- <sup>17</sup> They stare and gloat over me;  
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.
- <sup>18</sup> Be not far away, O LORD;  
you are my strength; hasten to help me.
- <sup>19</sup> Save me from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog.
- <sup>20</sup> Save me from the lion's mouth,

- my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.
- <sup>21</sup> I will declare your name to my brethren;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- <sup>22</sup> Praise the LORD, you that fear him;  
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- <sup>23</sup> For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither does he hide his face from them;  
but when they cry to him he hears them.
- <sup>24</sup> My praise is of him in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- <sup>25</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:  
"May your heart live forever!"
- <sup>26</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- <sup>27</sup> For kingship belongs to the LORD;  
he rules over the nations.
- <sup>28</sup> To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- <sup>29</sup> My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him;  
they shall be known as the LORD's forever.
- <sup>30</sup> They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn  
the saving deeds that he has done.

*There is no benediction as the service continues with the Good Friday Worship....*