



“Table Fellowship” Maundy Thursday April 1, 2021

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

If you have an email address and want to be on POP’s weekly announcement list, please let the church office know. You can find worship each week at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/worship/>.

If you would like to support the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship, community outreach, and other ministries, you can give any amount by cash, check, or online. Thank you for your generosity.

ORDER OF SERVICE *The assembly speaks the bold verses*

*On Ash Wednesday, we began Lent with a major act of confession and ashes, but we did not receive forgiveness in the absolution. That forgiveness comes now "in the name and by the command of our Lord," at the worship celebrating Christ's love. The peace is shared after absolution and seals that forgiveness in a loving embrace, as if embraced by Christ himself. In addition, on Maundy Thursday the church remembers the last evening Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room before his arrest and crucifixion. Maundy Thursday marks three key events in Jesus' last week: his washing of his disciples' feet, his institution of the Lord's Supper, and his new commandment to love one another. This worship begins the Triduum, the three-day period from sunset on Thursday to sunset on Easter Day. The name 'Maundy Thursday' comes from the Latin *mandatum novum*, referring to the 'new commandment' Jesus taught his disciples (John 13:34). In other words, this is 'new commandment Thursday.'*

We begin our worship tonight in silent prayer reflecting on our Lenten journey.

Confession and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil – all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

You have come to make confession before God,
sins of which you are aware and which trouble you.

Merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Compassionate God,
**I repent of all my sins, known and unknown.
I am truly sorry, and I pray for forgiveness.
I firmly intend to amend my life,
and to seek help in mending what is broken.
I ask for strength to turn from sin
and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God
strengthen you with power
through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts
through faith.
Amen.

Our Response *Psalm 116:12-15*

¹² What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?

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

¹⁴ **I 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 faithful ones.

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was Servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gospel

Luke 22:1-27

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. ²The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. ³Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. ⁵They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. ⁶So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it." ⁹They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?" ¹⁰"Listen," he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"'" ¹²He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there." ¹³So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. ¹⁴When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

²¹But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. ²²For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" ²³Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this. ²⁴A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

Reflection

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

Musical Meditation *“Lamb of God Most Holy” - ACS #932*

Lamb of God most holy, upon the cross extended,
all my sin you carry, the burden of my soul.
What love amazing! What price unbounded!
Your body, wounded, will make me whole.

Mine is the transgression that causes you to suffer.
Mine is the rebellion, but you receive the blame.
My guilt before me, I come before you;
Lord, I implore you, remove my shame.

Lamb of God most holy, upon the cross forsaken,
for our sin you suffered, so far from God on high.
Your life surrendered in mercy frees us;
your name, O Jesus, we glorify.

Prayers of the People

United by the servant love of God in Christ, we pray this holy night for the needs of the world.

You call your people to hand on what we receive from you. Form all the baptized into teachers of faith. From one generation to the next, give your church hunger for your promises in the sacraments and joy in receiving and sharing your word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your creation provides all that we need. Cleanse and protect the water you have given for washing and drinking, water on which all life depends. Sustain crops and herds that provide food; teach us how to live so that there is enough for all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You redeemed your people from slavery. Preserve people throughout the world who flee violence and oppression. Establish just leadership in place of tyranny and peace in place of war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus loved his followers to the end. Grant assurance of that love to all who need it: those living with guilt, those struggling to forgive, those who are lonely or overlooked. Heal the sick and embrace the dying. We now offer to you merciful and compassionate Lord, all people, places and circumstances that are on our hearts and minds . . . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus washed the feet of the one who betrayed him. Inspire this congregation’s ministries of service, especially the Weekend Backpack Program, Caritas, local mission support, and ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response, and that we love as Jesus loved us. Give us renewed courage to serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your glory shone in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We thank you for generations of the faithful who have proclaimed our Lord’s death. Unite us with them in hope until he comes again. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hear these and all our prayers, O God, in the name of the one who loves us to the end, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the bread of life that nourishes and sustains us.
Since we today cannot gather to share the bread and cup,
dwell in our hearts and reveal to us again
that we are the body of Christ:
in our vulnerable flesh,
through our baptism into your death and resurrection,
and in service to the world you love.

Be for us manna in the wilderness.
Open our eyes to see you present in every meal
and in all who hunger for bread,
for human touch, and for healing and hope.
Help us to remember Your presence is the living impulse in all things,
the Christ deep among us,
filling Earth—land, sea, and air;
filling every element and place;
filling the grain and the grape we share as your children.

On the night of his betrayal and arrest,
Jesus taught us how to serve one another in love
with a ritual of table fellowship, scandalous in its welcome of all people.

On that night, he took bread, gave thanks and broke it,
giving it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
We pray in your name, our healer and companion. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

Please take your individual communion cups with you today. You may choose to partake of the grape juice and wafer in your car or at home. You may choose to reread the Words of Institution and the Lord's Prayer again, pray, or read tonight's scripture before taking communion.

Prayer After Communion

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Musical Meditation

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

ELW #347 (vs. 1-3)

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 from 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 suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

*Remain and pray as long as you need.
The congregation leaves in silence.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Limited in-person worship is now being held. Pre-registration is required each week to attend in-person. We will be following social distancing guidelines as well, and masks will be required. Online or on-demand worship will continue to be available. Please register online or call the church office and leave a voicemail message. We will call you back to confirm. Sanctuary doors will be unlocked 10 minutes prior to worship.

Upcoming Good Friday and Easter Worship Opportunities

Good Friday, April 2 – ***online only***

Easter Sunday, April 4 – 9 a.m. in-person worship (***50 person limit***) (*online also available*)

Gathered and Sent Bible Discussion Available By Phone

The weekly Gathered and Sent Bible discussion recording (podcast) is now available by phone. Just call **978-599-7887** and stay on the line to listen to the recording that discusses the upcoming Sunday scripture reading. A new recording is posted every Monday. Gathered and Sent podcasts can also be found on the church website, Spotify, Pandora, Alexa, Audible, iTunes, Apple Podcast, Google Podcasts, and more. Listen, invite, and participate in God's Word.

Mountain of Love

Each Lenten season, Prince of Peace has a Mountain of Love to support the Weekend Backpack Program, Caritas, and the Vilas Food Pantry as a spiritual practice of generosity and almsgiving. This year, we are asking for ***monetary donations***, or you can donate specific items needed such as spices, plastic spoons, cooking oil, oatmeal packets or cups, apple cider packets, or dry soup packets. These are much needed items, but rarely donated.

CURRENT PHASE: 2

- **Limited in-person worship.** Pre-registration is required to attend in-person. Online or on-demand worship will continue to be available. Please **sign up** on the church website at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/signups/> or by calling the church office. **Please sign up each household individual.** Again, use the sanctuary doors to enter the building. Doors will be unlocked 10 minutes prior to worship.
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building.
- Visitors must wear a facemask and keep to social distancing guidelines.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a community who believes in God's love, knows Jesus as Savior, and is blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thankful for these gifts, we gather to pray and praise, explore God's Word and its meaning for our lives, strengthen each other in our witness, and serve each other and our neighbors in the world.

VISION STATEMENT

Gathered by Grace ~ Sent to serve.
*Core Values: Spirituality, Community,
Grace, Helping Others, Creativity.*

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