

REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE ROAD TO CALVARY:
Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday combined Service
APRIL 1, 2021
Rev. Soren Flessen



Prelude:

Invitation to walk with Jesus

P: With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. We are reminded that Jesus did not consider equality with God something to hold on to, but became a servant and was obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. We hear that while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us. And, we are called to follow Jesus' example of what it means to love and serve others as he loved and served us, as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's Table, we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: 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.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: 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 God's power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Let this be so. Amen.

Stripping of the Altar -

"The Lamb"

The Supper-

Pastor will now light three tapers

P: Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by your Commandments and has commanded us to kindle the festival lights. Blessed are you, O Lord, who has sustained us and brought us to this season. May we be consecrated, O God, by the light of your countenance shining upon us to bless and bring us peace.

Scripture Reading: John 13:1-17, 34-35

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Invitation to the Lord's Table and Serving of the Meal

P: As we feast here in fellowship with Christ, we remember that Jesus said, "Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother and sister and mother." The table which He sets for a remembrance is for all nationalities and races.

For God has made all nations of the earth. The table of the Lord reaches around the world and by coming here we bind ourselves and our love is manifested by breaking bread together as did our Master and His disciples.

Song:

“Eat This Bread”

**Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to me and never be hungry
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Trust in me and you will not thirst.**

Scripture Reading: 1Corinthians11:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for^[a] you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, 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.

Repeat “Eat This Bread”

Reflections on the meaning behind the food served at the passion meal.

HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Institution.....

Pastor Soren

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 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.

Distribution and final blessing

CALVARY, THE PLACE OF OUR SALVATION

THE LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

Hymn:

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

1) 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.

2) Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at this feet, Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete. “It is finished!” hear him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Scripture Reading: John 19:17-30

¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." ²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Pastor's reflection and prayers for the congregation

Hymn: "Were You There?"

- 1) Were you there when they crucified my Lord: Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**
- 2) Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

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