

Holy Thursday
April 9, 2020
A God who Loves
Immanuel Lutheran, Clarinda and Trinity Lutheran, Shenandoah

As we gather: If Jesus' incarnation means anything about love, it's that love is not the stuff of Hallmark sentimentality, the kind of love that you feel one day and dissipates the next. On the night when He was betrayed, the One who had every power of God, who, as the children sing "has the whole world in His hands," picked up a bowl of water, wrapped Himself in a towel, and used His divine hands to scrub the dirt from the feet of His disciples.

A new commandment He gives. Love like this, He commands. Love with hands, not hearts. Love with actions, not feelings. Love by dying. As I have loved you.

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P I will go to the altar of God,

C to God my exceeding joy.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's? Then say 'Yes'.

C Yes.

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Collect

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, in Holy Baptism You washed away our iniquities and cleansed us from our sins. Do not cast us from Your presence, but restore to us the joy of Your salvation. Open our lips to declare Your praise that we may sing of Your righteousness for all eternity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:23–32

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

²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

²⁷Whoever, 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. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now 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. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then 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. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not 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, “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.” ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹²When 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?” ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. . . .

“Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.’ ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By 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.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn: Jesus, Greatest at the Table

LSB 446

- 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
- 4
As a vile and loathsome man;
On the cross poured out like water
To fulfill the Father's plan.
- 4
Can we fathom such deep mercy?
Do we see what God has done?
Who can grasp this great reversal:
Love that gives His only Son?
Christ, the sinless for the sinners,
For the many dies the One.
- 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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Sermon: A God Who Loves

1 Corinthians 11:23–32; John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

Reading

John 14:31; Luke 22:39–40

[Jesus said,] "I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here."

And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Hymn: Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB 436

- 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 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 suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.
- 3 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.
- 4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

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Prayer of the Church

- P** On this night, Jesus gave His Church a new commandment to love one another as He has loved us, and then He washed His disciples' feet before He offered Himself on the cross in perfect love. Therefore, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** Holy Lord, Your Son instituted the Holy Supper this day and you tell us as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim Your Son's death until He comes. Grant us boldness and joy, then, to proclaim Your Son's death, for His death gives life to this dying world. Be with all pastors and missionaries who proclaim Christ crucified in this and every land. Where there is despair, bring hope; where there is guilt, bring forgiveness; where there is pain, bring help; and where there is persecution, bring joy. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Holy Lord, Peter would have had no share with Your Son unless Your Son washed his feet. Help us to treasure our Baptism each and every day for Your Son has washed more than our feet but has washed both body and soul of all our sins so that we now abide in Him and He in us. Keep us in our Baptism until it is completed in the resurrection of our bodies when we will live in the light of His glory forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**

P Holy Lord, You hold the world in Your hands so give all nations good and honest leaders who govern according to Your commands. Bestow peace in every land so that Your Gospel has free course. Grant wisdom and integrity to our president, governor, congress, and all who make, administer, and judge our laws so that they promote justice, defend the weak, reward virtue, and punish evil. Guard and protect all who serve in the armed forces and bless their families with Your peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Holy Lord, Your Son touched those who were ill and healed them. Be merciful to those who are sick, shut-in, addicted, suffering, or near death, and grant them healing according to Your good and gracious will. Help them to bear their affliction with patience knowing that You will fully restore them in both body and soul when You make all things new on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Holy Lord, Your Son instituted the Lord's Supper to serve us the very forgiveness, life, and salvation that He won by giving Himself in perfect love for us on the cross. As your forgiven children, cause us to proclaim his death until he comes. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You see that we need, grant us dear Father; through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

L Taught by our Lord and trusting 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.**

Collect

A Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, giver and perfecter of our faith, we thank and praise You for continuing among us the preaching of Your Gospel for our instruction and edification. Send Your blessing upon the Word, which has been spoken to us, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our saving knowledge of You, that day by day we may be strengthened in the divine truth and remain steadfast in Your grace. Give us strength to fight the good fight and by faith to overcome all the temptations of Satan, the flesh, and the world so that we may finally receive the salvation of our souls; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Stripping the Altar

Reading

Psalm 22

- ¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
- ²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.
- ³Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- ⁵To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
- ⁶But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
- ⁷All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
- ⁸“He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”
- ⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother’s breasts.
- ¹⁰On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother’s womb you have been my God.
- ¹¹Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.
- ¹²Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
- ¹³they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.
- ¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
- ¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.
- ¹⁶For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—
- ¹⁷I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
- ¹⁸they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
- ¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
- ²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!

²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

²²I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.

²⁸For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

Acknowledgments

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