

Maundy Thursday

April 9, 2020 † Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Worship in the home

As we live into this time of worshipping together while being physically apart, we have an opportunity to re-discover the joy of the early Church and their worship in homes.

As you consider where this might happen in your home, perhaps setting aside a place that you can use each week would be helpful. Even if it's a dining table that is used for other things during the week, having a cloth to cover the table in the color of the season (today we are the scarlet color of Holy Week), a candle, and a cross, can remind you of the sanctity of all places. Such a place is holy because it is used for feeding (or other purposes, depending on where you choose) and, at times, for prayer. And remember, if you can find a way by phone or screen to invite others separated by distance into your time of prayer this morning, that will be a blessing to all.

Focus on the Season: Maundy Thursday

With this day our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Triduum, the Great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another and for those in need of any kind.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship tonight. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. However, you can also print these pages and use the links in the email.



Centering and Gathering

This liturgy could be done following your evening meal. As the meal is ending, and you are moving to your place of worship (or setting it up on your table, if that's your practice), you could play the following piece, "Le banquet céleste (The Mystical Banquet) by Olivier Messiaen. Click the title to link to the audio.

Light your candle. Have a bowl of warm water and a towel ready for later.

In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther invites you to begin devotions – separately or together – making the sign of the cross and naming God into your midst:

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Word

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Link to a video of this and the readings

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-14; reader: assisting minister David Engen

(In the readings video)

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ² This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ 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. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴ This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Pause the video to sing or say the psalm together.

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19



I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice, * and listened to my | supplication,
for the LORD has given | ear to me * whenever I called.
How shall I re- | pay the LORD * for all the good things God has | done for me?
I will lift the cup | of salvation * and call on the name | of the LORD.
I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD * in the presence of | all God's people.
Precious in your | sight, O LORD, * is the death | of your servants.
O LORD, truly I | am your servant; * I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have
freed me | from my bonds.
I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving * and call upon the | name of the LORD.
I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD * in the presence of | all God's people,
in the courts of | the LORD's house, * in the midst of you, O | Jerusalem.

READING: I Corinthians 11:23-26; reader: assisting minister David Engen

In the readings video

Paul writes: 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 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.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

In the readings video

¹ 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. ² The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father

had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

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

³¹ Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

SERMON

Awake

Pr. Joseph Crippen

Click the sermon title, "Awake," for the video.

Text is on the Mount Olive website, at www.mountolivechurch.org/worship/sermons/

HYMN: ELW 347, "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

Click the hymn title to link to the audio

Sung at Mount Olive on the Sunday of the Passion, year B, March 25, 2018

Footwashing

On this night we have heard Jesus' commandment to love one another as he has loved us. Let us now wash each other's feet, as a sign of the servant life Christ modeled for us and to which Christ calls us.

During the hymn, you may kneel and wash each other's feet, cupping water from the bowl over the feet, and drying with a towel.

HYMN: ELW 358, "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here"

Click the hymn title to link to the audio

Sung at Mount Olive on Maundy Thursday, April 12, 2017

Prayer

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Our Assisting Minister for today, David Engen, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this day. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. We add to our prayers the family of LeRoy Erlandson, who died on Sunday.

Pray these aloud, perhaps with one as leader if there are more than one gathered, and add any you feel drawn to add.

As we ponder the mystery of our God who comes to serve and commands us to serve, let us join in prayer.

Silence

O God who loves us in every station of life, we thank you that nothing can separate us from your grace and acceptance. Remind us always that we are your precious creation who is capable of great love and acceptance when we follow your example of being a servant. *God, in your mercy . . .*

Empower us to trust you by relying on your words of love which you offered to us in the tangible gifts of bread and wine. Help us to never take this sacrament lightly but to always realize the gift that it is, changing us and changing this world through the magnificent power of it wields through the presence of Christ. *God, in your mercy . . .*

Tonight we remember your sacrifice. These next few days are powerful in their agony and in the reminder that out of pain and death comes the gift of eternal life and the victory over death. When we walk through pain, help us to live in this resurrection hope. When we see no end to suffering, give us a vision of the open and empty tomb. And when we are hopeless, remind us that you are with us as we bear our own crosses and suffering. *God, in your mercy . . .*

Teach us to wash the feet of our neighbor and to give up the false qualification of their worthiness of our touch. Instead, show us their need and motivate our love to reach out and offer the healing, the comfort, the support, the nourishment, and the touch that must be offered as you would offer them. *God, in your mercy . . .*

We pray tonight for our world which is suffering under a disease that escapes our understanding. We pray for your guidance of the hands of all health care workers. Protect them as they minister to those who are suffering. We ask for your healing and solace to touch those who are suffering with the corona virus. Strengthen them and restore them to health. Guide us all to wiser behaviors so that this pandemic comes to a swift and conclusive end. *God, in your mercy . . .*

We pray for all who are mourning loss, O great Love and Healer, especially LeRoy's family. Let us be the voice and the presence of the hope of the resurrection to those who have experienced loss. May we wash the feet of those who have lost their caregivers and now fear they are alone. *God, in your mercy . . .*

Add any petitions you feel drawn to pray.

We pray for all those whom we love, and all those known to you who have died, especially our brother LeRoy and those we name before you . . . Fill us and your world with confidence and hope in the resurrection from the dead. *God, in your mercy . . .*

Whatever else you see that we and the world need, grant us O God, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

PEACE

Please greet others with Christ's peace. If you haven't called someone to join this prayer together, perhaps you might take the time now to call another and wish them peace.

LORD'S PRAYER AND BLESSING

Pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Someone may offer a blessing on behalf of all:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard and keep our hearts and minds in + Christ Jesus. Amen.

PSALMODY: **Psalm 22**, soloist: Susan Cherwien

Click "Psalm 22" to link to the audio

Sung on Maundy Thursday, April 18, 2019. In our usual gathering, this is the time of stripping the altar and chancel of everything that can be taken away, reminding us of Jesus' suffering and the stripping away of everything that held him to this world, to his life. You could take this time to pray, and also to clear your worship space completely, extinguishing the candle and putting things away to be brought out for Easter.