

LOVE ONE ANOTHER



JOHN 13:34

**MARCH 28, 2024, MAUNDY THURSDAY**



Zion  
Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church

*Zion matters to the  
community by  
showing the love of  
Jesus Christ.*

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On the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus gathered in the upper room with his disciples. They sat together for this final meal, this new meal of Jesus' body and blood. Tonight we gather, in small groups, at a table. We will worship, hear how Jesus loves us, and be fed at this table. After eating, we will silently move to the worship space for the last part of the service.

In this Lenten season we 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.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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 your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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.**

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.**

Today this community of faith rejoices with Gracelyn Harper Haga who joins us in sharing the meal of holy communion. In the sacrament of holy baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mis-

sion of God. In the sacrament of holy communion, God unites us in Jesus Christ and nourishes us for that mission. Living among God's faithful people, we are strengthened by God's word and this holy supper to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Let us welcome this sibling in Christ to holy communion.

**Welcome to the Lord's table. We thank God for you.**

**We pray that you will find joy and strength in this meal, until we feast forever at God's heavenly banquet.**

*The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.*

A reading from Exodus (Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14)

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 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. 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. [Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. 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. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.] 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. 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. 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. 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.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19** Read Responsively Men / Women

**M** I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

**W** **Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

**M** What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

**W** **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,**

**M** I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

**W** **Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.**

**M** O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

**W** **I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.**

Ⓜ I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

Ⓜ **in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**

A reading from First Corinthians (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

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

Word of God, Word of Life  
**Thanks be to God**

Holy Gospel According to St. John (John 13:1-17, 31b-35)  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now 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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 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." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." 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? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them." "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone 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**



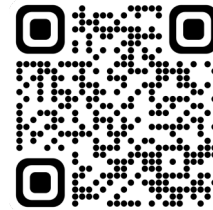
*The Offering of our tithes, gifts and sacrifices is gathered for the mission of Christ's church, including the care of those in need.*

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Let us enthusiastically pray our prayer of stewardship, Holy Lord,  
**I gladly return, for your work, a portion of your abundant provision to me. All that I have is yours alone, entrusted Lord, to my care. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your Light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy God, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**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.**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Lord's Supper (Communion) at this congregation is practiced as an open table – all are welcome.  
Jesus said this is his body and blood given and shed for you;  
come receive the loving grace God provides for you.

Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing, for all are loved by God.  
Children who commune at their home congregation are encouraged to commune here today too.

On this night Jesus instituted this holy meal at the table with his disciples. We will also gather at the table in groups of twelve. Pastor will call you forward by row to take your place at the table.

Place your used cup in the basket on the table.

Pastor will dismiss you as a group after everyone has received Christ's body and blood.

Let us pray.

**Lord Jesus, in this 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.**

*We process from the fellowship space into the worship space, in silence.*

### **Recognition of What Jesus is About To Do**

On this night we heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant.

**Lord, I know you love me, help me to serve others.**

On this night we heard that Jesus loved us to the end. That he gives us his body and blood as reminders of that love. That it's because of the Father's love that he was sent for us.

**Lord, I know you love me; help me to feel your love for others.**

On this night we heard that everyone will know we are Jesus' disciples if we have love for one another; even for our enemies.

**Lord, I know you love me; help me to love others, even my enemies.**

On this night we heard how Jesus forgives all we have done or failed to do that separates us from the love of God and which keeps us from loving all of God's children.

**Lord, I know you love me; help me to forgive others – all others.**

*Lights are dimmed as we focus upon what Christ endured for us*

Stripping of the altar is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the soldiers' hands. It marks the transition from the Eucharistic celebration to that of Jesus' persecution, crucifixion and death. Jesus is now in the hands of his captors.

Sing verses 1—3

Were You There

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

*Refrain*  
Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual  
Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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## Go to Dark Gethsemane

1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;  
 2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;  
 3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath-less clay;

your Re-deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
 oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!  
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.  
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?

turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854  
 Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

*Worship space lights remain dimmed*

### Depart in silence

*The service ends and we depart the church building in silence. We return to our daily lives, allowing time over these next days to reflect upon Jesus' love for us. This love is demonstrated by Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross, which we will recognize at Good Friday service tomorrow at 7:30 pm. You may remain for silent prayer as long as you wish. When you do depart, please leave the building in silence and reflection. Go in the peace of the Lord.*

John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
 Gospel Message from Pr. William  
 Photo by johnhain at Pixabay.com

It is the night in which he will be betrayed and what does Jesus have to say to his followers? This is how you will be known as my follower; by your love. Wow, Jesus, that's it, by how we love? Yes, by how deeply, how unconditionally, how often, and how self-sacrificingly you love one another – all others. The world will know we are Christ followers by our love. What does the world know about you by your love?