



Thursday

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020 7PM

GATHERING

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.

All kneel or sit and keep 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 vou 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.

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.**

GATHERING HYMN Where Charity and Love Prevail



- 4 Let strife a mong us be un known; let all con ten tions cease.
- 5 Let us for-give each oth-er's faults as we our own con-fess,



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt. Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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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.

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

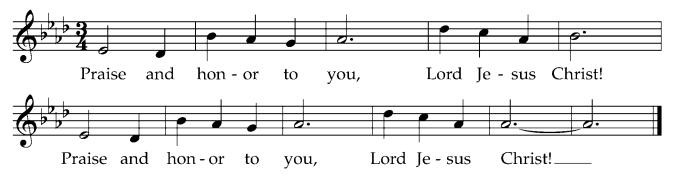
²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation sings the refrain. The cantor sings the verse, and the congregation repeats the refrain



Verse: I give you a new commandment, says the Lord. Love one another as I have loved you.

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

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

^{31b} Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.' 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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

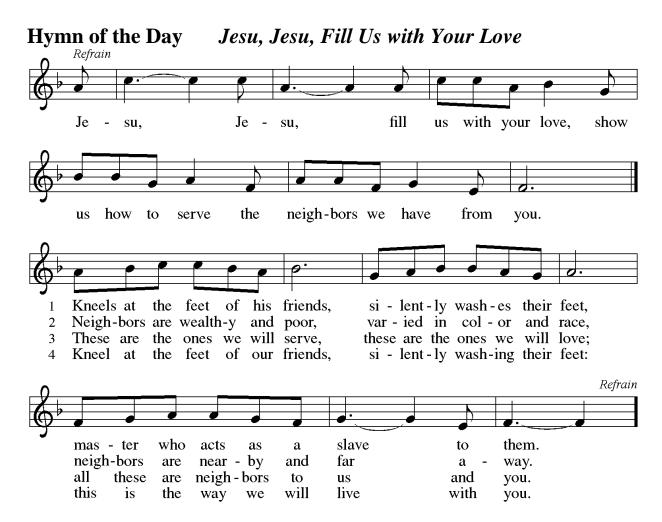
SERMON



Washing: An Act of Love

On this night we have 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. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

Looking at our world today, tonight, you are invited to wash your hands, recalling Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Using a pitcher of water, a bowel, and towels, prayerfully pour water over each hand (or allow a family member to do so). When finished, dry your hands with a towel. You may join in the song as you wash or continue to reflect on God's love poured out for you.



Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for new life in the church, new hope for the world, and God's love for all who are in need

A brief silence.

God of love, unite your church in its commitment to humble service. Make us your faithful disciples and strengthen us to hear and receive your word this Holy Week. Speak words of truth and grace through us. Encourage us in self-giving acts of kindness. Let us love one another as you have loved us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, you give us a new commandment, to have love for one another. We give thanks for organizations that respond to disasters and for agencies that offer relief and humanitarian aid to your creation and all populations in need. Grant wisdom and courage to heads of state and to legislators as they face the coronavirus. Lead our elected officials to champion the cause of the needy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, you accompany us in our suffering. Abide wherever the coronavirus has struck. Visit all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. Support physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers and engineers; and the World Health Organization. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, give ear to all who call upon you for any need of body or spirit *especially those we name before you now...* Provide for those who do not have enough to eat, those who are unemployed or underemployed, those seeking refuge, and those who rely on the generosity of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, glorify your servants who walked by faith in this life and who now feast with you, especially Molly McDermott. At the end, bring us with them into your everlasting glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

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.

SENDING

Finally, remembering Jesus going to his arrest and his death, the events from which all the mercy that fills this night flows, we pray the psalm:

Psalm 88

¹O LORD, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence, ²let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry. ³For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. ⁴I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help, ⁵like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand. ⁶You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. ⁷Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves.

⁸You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; ⁹my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call on you, O LORD; I spread out my hands to you. ¹⁰Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise you?

¹¹Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon? ¹²Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness? ¹³But I, O LORD, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you. ¹⁴O LORD, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide your face from me? ¹⁵Wretched and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am desperate. ¹⁶Your wrath has swept over me; your dread assaults destroy me. ¹⁷They surround me like a flood all day long; from all sides they close in on me. ¹⁸You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

All depart in silence.

Our worship continues tomorrow with Good Friday Service at 7pm and family-friendly service at 3pm. Both services are live-streamed.

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