



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



**MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 17, 2014**

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On Palm Sunday we began Holy Week – a great week because of the great things that are accomplished during these days. In observing the Great week we do more than recall past events. We share in Christ's death and resurrection. We not only share this good news, we are the good news – just as Jesus, the Christ not only shared the Gospel but was and is the Gospel.

Tonight, our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we celebrate Jesus' passing over from death to life. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are one continuous celebration. Maundy Thursday is a remembering of Christ's giving, his serving, for us. It is also a remembering and renewing of our service in the world. Maundy Thursday is a time of sharing, of eating together, our supper and the bread and wine of the sacrament. It is a time of remembering the feast that is yet to come, when all will celebrate with God forever!

On the night that Jesus ate the Passover with his disciples, he gave them a special remembrance of the reign of God among them. He washed their feet. It was a custom at that time to provide for the washing of feet when guests came to your house. This was a sign of welcome and respect. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. It was his way of serving them and showing them that he loved them. It is a sign of the presence of God with us as servant.

The early Christians met together in each other's homes on a regular basis and shared meals. They worked all day. In many cases they were persecuted. It wasn't popular to be Christian. This meal together was a time when they could be supportive of each other, because the risen Christ was present with them. This risen Christ was embodied in each other. And so tonight, we too remember that we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

INTRODUCTION

Friends in Christ,
in this Lenten season we have heard our God's call
to struggle against sin, death, and evil—
all that keeps us from loving God and each other.

Lent has its focus in Baptism.
We began with marking of ashes -
the cross that is made on our foreheads at baptism
is traced on our foreheads in ashes,
reminding us that God calls us to turn from hopeless to hopeful living.

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 neighbour,
and enter the celebration of the great Three Days
reconciled with God and with one another.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's compassionate face.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we have turned away from you and from our neighbours,
and in toward ourselves.
We have sought security in possessions and the place of power in relationships.
We have trusted ourselves most of all.
Turn us back to you, O God.
In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness and cleanse us from guilt and shame.
Guide us on the path of freedom that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear for yourselves:

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
In the waters of baptism grace abounds for you and for all.
God turns to you in love and puts away every sin,
every wrong turn, for the sake of + Jesus,
the one God sent to save the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN # 359 *“Where Charity and Love Prevail”* v. 3 - unaccompanied

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of the Beloved One, 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 the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Loving Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1–14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell 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. ⁴If 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. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This 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. ¹²For 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. ¹³The 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. ¹⁴This 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 *(translated by Nan C. Merrill)*

Receive my love, O Beloved,
You who hear my voice and my supplication.
**You incline your ear to me,
and I call upon You with trust both day and night.**
When the snares of fear encompass me,
when the pangs of loneliness envelop me,
I suffer distress and anguish.
**Then I call upon You, my Rock:
You come to my aid,
Your strength upholds me.**
Gracious are You, just and true;
Heart of all hearts, You are merciful and forgiving.
**You preserve the simple;
when I am humbled,
You lift me up.**

Return, O my soul, to your rest;
for You, O Loving Friend,
bestow grace upon grace, a balm for my soul.
**You raise me up to new life;
You dry my tears,
and guide my feet on straight paths.**
What shall I render to You
for all your goodness to me?
**I will drink the chalice of Love and praise You,
who have done wondrous things;
I will bear witness to You,
O Bread of Life, in the presence of all the people.**
Precious to You are all whose will decreases,
who abandon themselves into your Will.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

In the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another, because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.

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.

Holy Wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 13:1–17, 31b–35

The gospel is announced. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.

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. 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.**

HOMILY **“SERVE”**

HYMN (*please remain seated*) ***Open the Door***

Open the door to my heart
Open the door, and set me free
Teach my heart how to love again
Teach me courage to face what I fear

For in you I trust, in you I trust
And I am yours
In you I trust, in you I trust
And all I am is yours

Open the door to my life
Open the door, and set me free
Take me where I dare not go
Take me where I long to be

For in you I trust, in you I trust
And I am yours
In you I trust, in you I trust
And all I am is yours

FOOT WASHING/HAND WASHING

Each person who wishes to participate is asked to come forward and take a seat. Please remove the footwear from at least one foot or offer your hand instead. After the clergy person washes and dries the bare foot or hand and moves to the next person, the footwear is replaced and the person returns to her or his seat. The rite continues until all who desire to come forward have been washed.

HYMN DURING THE WASHING # 360 “Love Consecrates the Humblest Act”
(Tune is same as #359)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “God of Love: **Bathe us in your love.**”*

PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *The table is set while the offering is received. All rise for the prayer*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ, our Loving Saviour. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 Saviour 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:

SANCTUS

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics. The second system contains the next two lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and simple melodic lines.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O living God,
sovereign of time and space.
You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.
Your word leads us across the sea to freedom,
and you have carried us together to these holy Three Days.
Blessed be God forever!

Blessed be God forever!

Blessed are you, O living God,
for your glory revealed in Jesus Christ.
He is our Servant, who washes our feet with love.
He is our Lamb, whose blood takes away our sin.
He is our Host at this meal, offering us the cup of salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Blessed be God forever!
Blessed be God forever!

Blessed are you, O living God,
for the gift of your loving Spirit.
Fill this meal with the life of your Son.
Make us servants of one another and of everyone in need.
Bring us with all your people to the joy of the resurrection.
Blessed be God forever!
Blessed be God forever!
Amen, and amen.
Amen, and amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Where charity and love abide, there is God. Rejoice in this Holy Communion.
Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

The bread will be placed into the upraised palm of the communicant. All may then drink from the first (common) cup or dip the bread into the second (intinction) cup.

COMMUNION HYMN # 472 **“Eat This Bread”** (refrain sung 4 times)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May your living presence 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.**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

After the communion is completed, the liturgy concludes with the stripping of the altar. The assembly sits or kneels in darkness. While Psalm 22 is chanted by cantors, the sacramental elements and vessels, linens, paraments, banners, and books are removed from the worship space.

The faithful are invited to remain for silent meditation as long as desired.

There is no benediction since this liturgy is seen as the first of a three-part service which includes Good Friday and concludes with the Feast of Easter. All depart in silence.



Holy Week Worship Schedule

- April 18 Good Friday, 10:30 a.m. - Opening prayer at First Lutheran followed by Procession to St. Thomas for solemn liturgy
- April 19 “Won By One” study, 1:30 pm - **Cancelled**
Youth Group Movie Afternoon at FLC, 3-6 pm
- April 20 Resurrection of Our Lord
Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Festival Worship at 10:30 a.m.