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Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024 + 7 PM

On **Maundy Thursday**, named for the command or “mandate” Jesus gave the disciples to love one another, we gather to remember Jesus’ example of servanthood and to celebrate the Lord’s Supper. The worship service concludes with the ancient practice of stripping the altar table as a dramatic demonstration of Jesus’ abandonment during the events of this night and Good Friday. Our gathering this evening begins a three-day continuous worship service called the Triduum (“three days”), including Good Friday and concluding on the evening of Holy Saturday.

We Gather as God’s Children

Prelude

Rosae from “Esquisses Byzantine”

Henri Mulet

+ Call to Worship

Come, you with dirty feet, aching backs, and weary souls.

We come bearing a heavy load

of worry, frustration, and isolation.

Come, you who are hungry, thirsty, longing to meet the one who will feed you, body and soul.

We come with emptiness in our stomachs and our hearts, desperate to be filled.

Come to meet Jesus who kneels to wash our dirt and grime, who feeds us with bread and with love that never ends.

We come to receive the balm for our anxiety,

the provision for our hunger, the antidote for our loneliness.

Come to receive a new commandment:

love one another as Christ has loved you.

We come to embrace this new commandment

so that everyone will know we are disciples of Jesus Christ, God Incarnate who came to live and love among us. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2023.

+ Prayer

You knew your hour had come.

You knew your betrayer.

You knew your enemies.

You knew that the straw vote would not be in your favor.

But you loved unto the end.

Thank you for loving us, even unto death.

Teach us to love like you love.

***Teach us to love each other, to love even our enemies,
like you loved us.***

*Written by Nolan Williams, Jr., and posted on [The African American Lectionary](http://The African American Lectionary website) website. Re-posted on the
re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/holy-thursday-prayer-litany.html>.*

We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place,
let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson—John 13.1-7, 12-16, 34-35 (NRSVUE)

3 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 decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. 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 supper, 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."

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, 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, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.

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.”

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Washing of Hands

Hymns

Jesu, Jesu

UMH 432

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

UMH 552

Servant Song

TFWS 2222

Second Lesson—Matthew 26.17-30 (NRSVUE)

¹⁷On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ ” ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

²⁰When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, ²¹and while they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” ²³He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” ²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon - *At the Door*

Dr. Stephen J. Knisely

The Great Thanksgiving

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

From the earth, you bring forth bread and create the fruit of the vine.

You formed us in your image, delivered us from captivity

and make covenant to be our sovereign God.

You fed us manna in the wilderness

and gave us grapes as evidence of the promised land.

And so, your people on earth and all the company 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 are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
When we turned aside from your way and abused your gifts,
you gave us in him your crowning gift.
Emptying himself that our joy might be full,
he fed the hungry, healed the sick,
ate with scorned and forgotten, washed his disciples' feet,
and gave a holy meal as a pledge of his abiding presence.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.
Amen.

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The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn

One Bread, One Body

UMH 620

Prayer following Communion

God of love, during the Holy Week,
we give thanks for this night

Jesus shared with his disciples.

Between the public parade and the public charade
is this intimate hour.

Though even now we do not fully understand,
we long to follow his example:

to serve as he served,

to love as he loved.

Jesus promised that if we know these things and do them,
we will be blessed.

Help us, then, to know and to do all that Jesus taught.

Though we betray and deny,

we still come seeking you,

for this much we do know:

we cannot live unless it is with you. Amen.

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Third Lesson - Matthew 26.31-46 (NRSVUE)

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

³² “But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” ³³ Peter said to him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” ³⁴ Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” ³⁵ Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” ³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want.” ⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings **Offertory Choir Anthem**

In This Moment of Remembrance

Dale Wood

Fourth Lesson—Matthew 26.47-56 (CEB)

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?” ⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Stripping the Altar

Our worship continues tomorrow, on Good Friday, March 29.

Berea Community Crosswalk & Worship

Noon, Meet at The UMC of Berea

12:30 PM, Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Good Friday Worship Service

7 PM, Sanctuary and online at www.facebook.com/umcberea/live