

Four themes converge in our worship on Maundy Thursday...

We confess our sin, acknowledging how we have failed to live the life that God intends for us. We receive the assurance of God's gracious forgiveness.

We hear how Jesus gave a "new commandment."

"Maundy" comes from the Latin mandatum (related to the English "mandate"), which means "commandment." Jesus commands that we love each other as he has loved us, and demonstrates this love by washing the feet of his disciples. We have the opportunity to wash feet, following his example—or you may wash hands, as this was part of the ritual of the Passover meal.



We receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion, remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples. We call this meal the Eucharist (which is Greek for "thanksgiving") because we celebrate it with thanksgiving for Jesus' life, given for the sake of the world. We believe that in the bread and cup, the risen Christ is present to give blessing, hope and new life.

We prepare for what is to come. After celebrating the Passover meal with his disciples, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane, where he was betrayed and arrested. He was sentenced to death and crucified. We prepare to remember Jesus' humiliation and death by stripping the altar. We leave in silence, waiting to hear more of the story tomorrow night—knowing, though, that the climax of the story will not come until Easter morning.

(Please note that no offering will be collected during the service.
A basket is located near the entrance for your contributions.)

WELCOME!

- ❖ Welcome! We are glad that you have come to First Immanuel this evening. We welcome people of every race, ethnic background, social status, physical limitation, sexual orientation and gender identity. We are a Reconciling In Christ congregation. Together, in our diversity, we seek to embrace the love God offers us all in Jesus Christ.

MASKS OPTIONAL

- ❖ Our worship services and all activities are mask-optional. Those who wish to wear a mask are welcome to do so, since this is a very effective way to prevent infection. The church continues to provide masks, run air purifiers, and make hand sanitizer available, and our caring FILC physicians continue to encourage vaccination for everyone.

MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION

28 March 2024

GATHERING

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

READ

Pastor: During this Holy Week, we are called to return to God with all our heart. Therefore let us be honest with ourselves and with God as we prepare to worship.

Silence for reflection and self-examination...

Pastor: Gracious God,

**People: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life.
Amen**

Pastor: By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Christ, ✠ God forgives us all our sins. Almighty and All-tender God, strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

People: Amen

* HYMN

“Love Consecrates the Humblest Act”

ELW 360 (red book)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Love consecrates the humblest act
and haloes mercy's deeds;
it sheds a benediction sweet
and hallows human needs. | of his disciples, he gave us
a sign of love complete. |
| 2. When in the shadow of the cross
Christ knelt and washed the feet | 3. Love serves and willing stoops to serve;
what Christ in love so true
has freely done for one and all,
let us now gladly do! |

© Public domain.

* Please stand as you are able.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave disciples a new commandment: To love one another as he had loved them. By your Holy Spirit write this commandment in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, the Lover of our Souls. Amen**

© Public domain.

WORD

THE FIRST READING

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

MEDITATION

Pastor Christine Core

FOOTWASHING / HANDWASHING

Optional—instructions will be given by a pastor...

HYMN 1

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

ELW 708 (*red book*)

Refrain:

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.**

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them.

Refrain

2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away.

Refrain

HYMN 2

“Where True Charity and Love Abide”

ELW 642 (*red book*)

Where true charity and love abide,
God is dwelling there; God is dwelling there.

© 1979 *Les Presses de Taizé*, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission (OneLicense.net lic. A-714688).

BLESSING

Pastor: Wash us with your Spirit, O God, and we shall be clean. Anoint us with your Spirit, and we shall be the hands and feet of Christ for the healing of the world.

People: **Amen**

THE SECOND READING

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

CHOIR ANTHEM

“How Beautiful”

Twila Paris, comp.

THE THIRD READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

ELW 471 (*red book*)

1. Let us break bread together
on our knees;
let us break bread together
on our knees.

2. Let us drink wine together
on our knees;
let us drink wine together
on our knees.

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Refrain

3. Let us praise God together
on our knees;
let us praise God together
on our knees.

Refrain

© Public domain.

* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assistant: Let us pray for new life in the church, new hope for the world, and God’s love for all who are in need.

After each petition...

Assistant: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude...

Pastor: We pray to you, O God, in the name of the one who endured the cross, forgives our sin, washes us with living water, and feeds us at his table, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

From Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission (Augsburg Fortress lic. SBL15068).

HOLY COMMUNION

* SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

Share signs of peace with those around you...

* **SETTING THE TABLE**

Assistant: Let us pray. Merciful God,

**People: receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that loving one another and following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

* **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING & EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.... The Passover of Christ from death to life!

People: Amen

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

READ

Pastor: We pray as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane on this night, "Not what I want, Abba, Father, but what you want."

People: 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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Welcome to the Table of Grace.

All are welcome at this table, where the crucified and risen Christ is present to strengthen us to share in God's loving purposes for the world. The ushers will direct you to the altar rail. The glasses in the center of the communion tray contain grape juice for those who wish it. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please ask the pastor. To receive a pastoral blessing instead of the bread and cup, simply fold your hands.

Refrain:

**You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.**

**Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.**

1. As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam’ly, Lord,
we follow and rejoice.

Refrain

2. With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heav’nly food.

Refrain* **BLESSING**

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and these gifts of Christ’s body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

People: **Amen**

* **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER****READ**

Assistant: Let us pray. God of grace,

People: **your Chosen One, Jesus, left us this holy meal of bread and fruit of the vine in which we share Christ’s body and blood. May we who have celebrated this sign of your great love bear the fruits of redemption in our lives; through Jesus Christ, the Lover of our Souls. Amen**

Reprinted by permission from *Book of Common Worship*, © 1993 Westminster/John Knox Press.

SENDING

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**Psalm 22**

Please remain silent as the psalm is chanted and the altar is stripped of its linens, paraments and utensils, a symbol of Jesus’ suffering at the hands of those who arrested him.

Please leave the sanctuary in silence. Our worship continues tomorrow with the Good Friday service at 7 p.m.

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

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.

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19**SECOND READING: 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, 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.

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

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."

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43; Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-RC