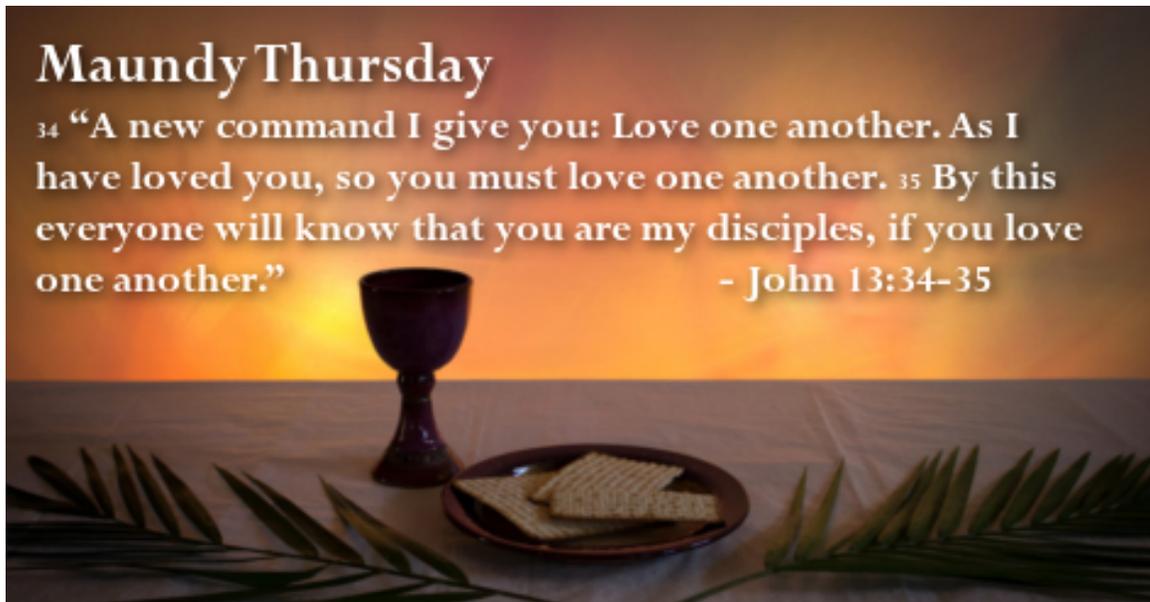


St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Maundy Thursday

At The Crossroads: Forgiveness

April 13, 2017



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Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

Communion and Visitor Registration Cards are located in the pew racks. We ask that each member and visitor complete a Communion Card when communing, and visitors complete a Visitor card. Completed cards may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed.

A Nursery is located at the rear of the sanctuary in the overflow area.

If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray That we may feast on you today; Beneath these forms of bread and wine Enrich us with your grace divine.

One bread, one cup, one body, we, Rejoicing in our unity, Proclaim your love until you come To bring your scattered loved ones home.

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray: O keep us steadfast till that day When each will be your welcomed guest In heaven's high and holy feast.

OPENING RESPONSE

P In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses.

C Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

P As far as the east is from the west,

C So far does he remove our transgressions from us.

P If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins

C And to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

C Therefore we give glory to God who raised him up and gave us the promise of salvation. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Jesus said, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

C Forgiven Lord, we confess that we find ourselves cherishing your forgiveness, yet we seek to avoid forgiving those who sin against us. Forgive our need to carry grudges, to count the injuries done to us while failing to see and confess the failings in ourselves. Forgive blindness to the hurts and needs of others while we tend to our own broken promises and broken intentions. Fill us with your heart of compassionate forgiveness and make us those who heal and encourage our loved ones. Fill us with the Spirit so that we might overflow with the serving that proclaims your very presence with us.

P I have the honor and privilege, by the grace of God, of announcing to you the entire forgiveness of your sins. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and free—free to share the steadfast love of God with all.

Savior, when in dust to you low we bow in homage due;
When, repentant, to the skies scarce we
lift our weeping eyes; Oh, by all your pains and woe suffered once for us below,
Bending from your throne on high, hear our penitential cry!

By your helpless infant years, by your life of want and tears,
By your days of deep distress in the
savage wilderness, By the dread, mysterious hour of the insulting tempter's pow'r,
Turn, oh, turn a favoring eye; hear our penitential cry!

By your hour of dire despair, by your agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, piercing
spear, and torturing scorn, By the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh; hear our penitential cry!

By your deep expiring groan, by the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode held in
vain the rising God, Oh, from earth to heav'n restored, mighty, reascended Lord,
Bending from your throne on high, hear our penitential cry!

OLD TESTAMENT READING ... PSALM 116:1-9

- 1** I love the Lord, because he heard my voice. He heard my cry for his help.
- 2** Because he paid attention to me, I will call out to him as long as I live.
- 3** The ropes of death were wrapped around me. The horrors of the grave came over me.
- 4** I was overcome by sadness and sorrow.
- 5** Then I called out to the Lord. I cried out, "Lord, save me!"
- 6** The Lord is holy and kind. Our God is full of tender love.
- 7** The Lord takes care of those who are not aware of danger. When I was in great need, he saved me.
- 8** I said to myself, "Be calm. The Lord has been good to me."
- 9** Lord, you have saved me from death. You have dried the tears from my eyes. You have kept me from tripping and falling.
- 10** So now I can enjoy life here with you while I'm still living.

EPISTLE READING ... 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

23 I passed on to you what I received from the Lord. On the night the Lord Jesus was handed over to his enemies, he took bread. **24** When he had given thanks, he broke it. He said, "This is my body. It is given for you. Every time you eat it, do it in memory of me." **25** In the same way,

after supper he took the cup. He said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Every time you drink it, do it in memory of me." **26** You eat the bread and drink the cup. When you do this, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

GOSPEL READING ... MATTHEW 26:26-29

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to his disciples and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body." **27** Then he took a cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them. He said, "All of you drink from it. **28** This is my blood of the covenant. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many people. **29** Here is what I tell you. From now on, I won't drink wine with you again until the day I drink it with you in my Father's kingdom."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall; Here a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all, In a full perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.

Come in sorrow and contrition, wounded, impotent, and blind; Here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled, peace may find. Your true health it will restore, so that you need thirst no more.

Come with hurts and guilt and meanness, come, however soiled within; From the most ingrained uncleanness, from pollution by your sin, Wash your robes and make them white; you shall walk with God in light.

Take the life that lasts forever; trust this soul-renewing flood. God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood, Signed when our Redeemer died, sealed when he was glorified.

SERMON DIALOG WITH MARIE AND TOM

OFFERING

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Let us bring our prayers and petitions to God, who hears and answers the pleas of our hearts. During this Holy Week, Lord, we pray your peace for the nations and peoples of the world and our own nation. Send your Spirit into leaders and rulers. Give them wisdom and a vision of your will for their peoples. We ask your help and comfort for those who must live in places of violence and persecution, especially those who suffer for your name. Strengthen the oppressed; hold the persecuted in your protective hand; send justice to the victims of injustice; and encompass all who cry to you for help with your saving presence. Make us agents of healing in this hurting world. In your mercy, **Hear us, Lord.**

We pray for this congregation and your church in the world. Give faithful leaders so that your church can be a place of healing and reconciliation for all who are broken in spirit. Inspire your followers to take up their crosses of love and service. In your mercy, **Hear us, Lord.**

Ever-present Savior, fill us with the gift of your forgiveness, so that we can carry that forgiveness to all in our world. Give us a spirit of repentance so that we can more fully depend on your

gracious gift of forgiveness. Give us the strength to choose the way of open acceptance and reconciliation for all we meet, all who are broken in spirit and burdened by the sins of the past. Lead us to take your healing power to all those around us who cry out for help. Make us able to choose the path of love. In your mercy, **Hear us, Lord.**

We pray for the sick, the suffering, the grieving, the lonely, especially those we name in our hearts. We commit them to your loving care. Heal, help and comfort them according to your will. In your mercy, **Hear us, Lord.**

These and all other petitions and requests we bring before you in the name of Jesus. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.
With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

The assembly joins hands to pray:

**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

Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

No matter what you have done or your situation, Christ invites, to His table, all who love Him and earnestly repent of their sin and who seek to live in peace with one another. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, in a 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.

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

(All leave the building in silence.)