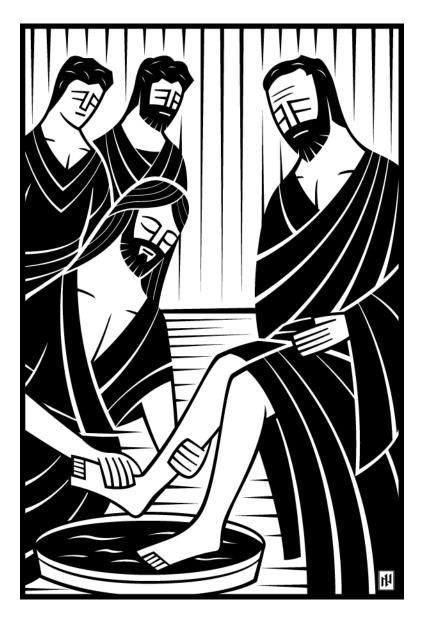
Christ shows us the full extent of God's love for us!



SHINING MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH Bozeman, MT

Maundy Thursday - April 9th 2020



SERMON

INSTRUCTION FOR THE END OF LENT

M: In this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

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.

In Holy Communion the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father,

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

In what I have done and left undone,

I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.

I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.

For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

- M: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.
- C: Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

The minister pronounces a corporate absolution with these words:

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

EXHORTATION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another, and extend to each other the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The congregation extends the peace of Christ by turning to each other and saying:

C: Peace be with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O Lord Jesus Christ: We thank You that on the night You were betrayed You instituted, out of great love, this blessed sacrament, Your Supper. Although we cannot for now receive in our mouths Your true body and blood, we ask You to stir up our minds and hearts to a salutary remembrance of Your benefits, for You instituted this Sacrament as a memorial of Your Passion. Grant that we may treasure this gift and hunger and thirst for this communion, and eagerly wait to receive it together as a congregation. Also help us in this "little while" to spiritually partake of You and be one with You by means of Your words "given and shed for you for the remission of sins," for we know that whoever believes these words has the forgiveness of sins. By Your Spirit, help us to confess our sins, remember Your agony and death, believe the forgiveness of sin, and grow in faith and love,

until we obtain eternal salvation through You, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 12:1-14

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. 23 When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. 24 "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. 25 When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. 26 And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' 27 then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians." Then the people bowed down and worshiped. 28 The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron. 29 At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. 30 Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

HYMN #714 The Lamb



EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



GOSPEL John 13:1-15

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" 10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only

to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. ¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

HYMN OF THE DAY #313 (vv.6-8)

Iesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

- 6 Then hold fast with faith unshaken
 That this food is to be taken
 By the souls who are distressed,
 By hearts that long for peace and rest.
- 7 Praise the Father, who from heaven Unto us such food has given And, to mend what we have done, Gave into death his only Son.
- 8 If your heart this truth professes And your mouth your sin confesses, Surely you will be his guest And at his banquet ever blest.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

This prayer of the church is meant to follow the three part outline of Jesus' great High Priestly prayer which he offered up the night before he died. Jesus first prayed for himself. He then prayed for his disciples. Finally he prayed for all believers (John 17).

- M: Father in heaven, just as your Son lifted his eyes toward you on the night of his passion, we confidently approach you in his name as this day draws to a close.
- C: I lift up my eyes to the hills. My help comes from the LORD. Psalm 121:1
- M: As Priest and Passover Lamb, he prayed that his sacrifice, soon offered on the cross, would be acceptable to you & would result in his glory and our salvation. We give you praise that, having finished the work you gave him to do, you answered his prayer.
- C: At the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

 Philippians 2:10-11

- M: As ascending Advocate, he prayed for the disciples who believed his word and remained in the world. Preserve your saints here and in every place who bear your name through baptism. Though they are still in the world, keep them from becoming of the world and protect them from its hatred.
- C: Sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth.

John 17:17

- M: Bless the instruction of the young. As you used the Passover celebration to teach Israel's youth, bless our frequent celebration of Holy Communion as opportunity and incentive to teach our children that they may soon share in it with us.
- C: Whenever we eat the bread and drink the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

 1 Corinthians 11:26
- M: Finally, as Mediator for mankind, he prayed for those elect who were yet to be gathered. May the unity created by your word and expressed in your Sacrament serve as clear evidence to the world that Christ is in us just as you are in him. Keep us from divisive error, needless disputes, and calloused indifference.
- C: Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

 1 Corinthians 10:17
- M: Use the apostolic gospel wherever it is preached to create and sustain faith. Just as Jesus now sits in glory, bring us and the full number of you chosen ones to the place where he has gone, which even now he makes ready for us.
- C: Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

 Phillippians 3:20

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

M: After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly:

Prayer in Gethsemane,
Betrayal by Judas and arrest,
Mock trials, ridicule and suffering,
The walk to Golgotha and death.

As his life was stripped from him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolize his purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The events of Good Friday snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when he suffered, so we extinguish our candles.

Candles extinguished and removed.

The Altar Book and hymnal guides our worship together as we hear his Word and respond with prayer and songs of praise. As Jesus suffers, joyful songs are not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the service books.

Altar book and hymnal are removed.

Jesus offered his body and blood as the payment for our sins. They have been given to us in, with and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Supper. As he was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

Communion vessels removed.

Paraments are the cloths that cover our altar and display symbols of our God and salvation. Purple, the color of Lent, also points to the purple robe Jesus wore as the soldiers mocked him. As Jesus was stripped of the purple robe, and of his dignity, so we remove the paraments from the altar.

Paraments removed.

The minister exits the chancel and reads Psalm 88. During the reading of the psalm the congregation's focus is on the stripped altar.

PSALM 88

O LORD, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before you. ² May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry. ³ For my soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave. 4 I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like a man without strength. 5 I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care. 6 You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths. Your wrath lies heavily upon me; you have overwhelmed me with 8 You have taken from me my closest friends and all your waves. have made me repulsive to them. I am confined and cannot escape; 9 my eyes are dim with grief. I call to you, O LORD, every day; I spread out my hands to you. 10 Do you show your wonders to the dead? Do those who are dead rise up and praise you? 11 Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction? 12 Are your wonders known in the place of darkness, or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion? ¹³ But I cry to you for help, O LORD; in the morning my prayer comes before you. 14 Why, O LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me? ¹⁵ From my youth I have been afflicted and close to death; I have suffered your terrors and am in ¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me. 17 All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me. ¹⁸ You have taken my companions and loved ones from me; the darkness is my closest friend.

No words are spoken after the reading of Psalm 88. The service will end in silence as we prepare for Christ's Crucifixion.

Please join us tomorrow night at 6:00 PM for our Good Friday Worship Service

Announcements

To watch and participate in the service click here:

You can send your **offerings** to the Lord via mail: 1710 Vaquero Parkway, Bozeman MT 59718

or

by setting up direct deposit through our secure giving site by clicking here.

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