

*We invite, encourage, educate and empower  
all people to follow God and serve others.”*

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Maundy Thursday

March 29, 2018

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*Welcome to this service for Maundy Thursday. In this service we remember that when Jesus institutes the first Lord’s Supper, he grants forgiveness to his disciples through the bread and wine. When we receive the bread and wine of Communion in remembrance of him, we receive that forgiveness and in turn forgive others.*

**HYMN “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”**

#338

### **OPENING DIALOGUE**

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

*This day recalls the events with our Lord in the Upper Room – the last meal Jesus would eat with his disciples before his death. The meal during which Jesus would wash the feet of his disciples, give a new commandment that we love one another as he says “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” The meal during which we hear the words for the first time “This is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”*

**We have come together not just to remember, but to respond to his call to pray, to serve one another and to receive his presence in the Holy Supper.**

*The cup of blessing that we bless,*

**Is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?**

*The bread that we break,*

**Is it not a participation in the body of Christ?**

*Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,*

**For we all partake of the one bread.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*Jesus said, “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.”*

**Forgiving 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.**

*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.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 116:1-9

*(see insert)*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 26:26-29

*(see insert)*

**SERMON**      *“Forgiveness”*

**NICENE CREED** *(see insert)*

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*Lord Jesus, on this Holy Night we remember many things.*

*We remember that you commanded us to love and serve one another.*

*We remember that you ate with your disciples and we remember that you said,*

**“This is my body given for you, this is my blood shed for you.”**

*We remember your death on the cross for us, and we remember that it was for us you died.*

**With thankful hearts we offer our prayers and our praise.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**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 is 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**

**HYMN**

*We will sing the hymn through once and then continue to sing it as we gather together in a circle to commune.*

**“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.**

**Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”**

**DISTRIBUTION AND BLESSING**

**HYMN**

**“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”**

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer  
When I call, answer me.**

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:  
come and listen to me. *(Repeat)***

**PRAYER**

**HYMN**

**“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”**

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer  
When I call, answer me.**

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:  
come and listen to me.**

*Continue to sing hymn as you return to your seats and are seated.*

**STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

Reading of Psalm 22

*You are invited to stay for a time of silent prayer or to leave in silence at the end of the Psalm 22 reading.*

The offering will be received by the door as you leave.

*Musician: Marie Kennedy*