



**The Table to The Cross
Dinner Church**

April 9, 2020

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Hermosa, SD

Hello, Family of Faith,

For this service, you are invited to worship as you gather for a meal. You are welcome to do this on your own, gather virtually with other family members via Zoom, Skype, FaceTime or Facebook Messenger or gather and have a virtual meal with me on Zoom at 6:00 pm. **Please let me know if you would like to be a part of a Zoom gathering.** If you have multiple people in your home, I encourage you to spend time making a meal together.

What is Maundy Thursday worship all about? This is the night Jesus took time to share one last Passover meal with his disciples before he would be arrested. During this meal Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, calls out the one that will betray him, gives the command to love one another as he has loved us and institutes the gift of Holy Communion. Maundy Thursday is the start of the Easter Triduum – the Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

I encourage to make a home altar on your table. Place a cloth in the middle. Place a cross and one to three candles on the cloth. The cross does not have to be standing up. We will be celebrating Holy Communion during this meal. Place bread on a plate and some wine or juice in a cup on the cloth. Place a small bowl of water on the cloth to represent our baptisms. Have a Bible available from which to read Scripture. Also have a larger bowl of warm water and a towel available. This can be in the same room as the table or in a different room.

Before you begin your meal, take time to set the table with what is needed for the meal. (Food that needs to be kept warm can wait to be set out.) Visit with each other about what is seen around the church or on the altar when Holy Communion is part of worship. What is set out during fellowship time? Why is it so important to have a meal together? How does it make us feel when we are able to gather around food?

Now it is time for Dinner Church to begin! Stand by your table to begin this service. Follow the service as follows, taking turns doing the reading and the leading. (Leader parts are italicized. Everyone reads the dark print parts together.) God bless your worship this evening!

Pastor Deb Grismer

The Table to The Cross Order of Worship

Washing Away Our Sins

(Light candle or candles in the center of the table.)

We begin in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Pray together)

Eternal God,

in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit and through this meal, these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies. Please bless the food we are about to eat as we lift this worship to you. Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 13:1–11

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him,

Lord, do You wash my feet?

What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.

You shall never wash my feet.

If I do not wash you, you have no share with Me.

Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!

Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." For He knew who was to betray Him; that was why He said, "Not all of you are clean."

CONFESSION

We have more than dirty feet! Let us go to our loving Lord in humble confession.

We are soiled by sin in our inner being, O Lord. We are helpless to change ourselves by our own power and determination.

We have not loved one another in our thinking.

We have found friends who might give us compliments, rather than looking for people around us who may be isolated, alone, and in need of support.

We have not loved one another in our speaking.

We have complained about neighbors who irritate us, rather than putting the best construction on their actions and trying to put a smile on their faces.

We have not loved one another in our acting.

We have used our time and energy to make our lives easier, rather than lovingly assisting the people around us who have difficulty caring for themselves.

Heavenly Father, show us the true humanity of our Lord Jesus; help us grasp His great love for us on every level of our existence.

Forgive us, renew our trust in Your daily and eternal care, and lead us in paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Amen.

ABSOLUTION – THE WASHING OF HANDS

Move to the large bowl of warm water. Over the bowl of water, break apart the bath scrub that came with your worship kit and swirl it around. The smell is Frankincense, reminding us of the gifts given to Jesus at his birth as well as one of the oils that will coat his body after his death. If you don't have a bath scrub or scented oils, use hand soap to awaken your sense of smell and remind you of having the dirt washed off your body and down the drain. Take turns washing and drying one another's hands to symbolize Christ's washing of the disciples' feet. As you rinse and dry the hands of the people gathered, say: *In Christ you are forgiven, washed free from sin, go and love others as Christ has loved you.*

Take your seat at the table. It is time for the meal. Don't forget to grab whatever else is needed.

The Meal: Nourishment for Our Bodies

During this portion of the service, eat together enjoying the meal you have made. Read the following scripture passages at various times through the meal before you finish eating. Don't forget to take turns if there is more than one of you. Don't rush. This is not a timed service.

A Reading from John: *After 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? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, 'The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."*

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A Reading from John: *After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving*

the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A Reading from John: *When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little 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.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered, “Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterward.” Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.*

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Meal: Nourishment for Our Bodies

This is the time during the meal when Holy Communion will be given and received. Toward the end of the meal, after the above scripture texts have been read everyone should stop eating, putting down their utensils. Designate one person to be the officiant. This person stands and takes the bread and the cup and places it in front of them. Others can read Scripture.

A Reading from Mark: *While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”*

Officiant: *We too have been invited to eat with Jesus. We too are his disciples. At the table there is room for you and for me. You are welcome at his table where on the night he was betrayed,*

Our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to his disciples saying "Take and eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in 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." For as often as we eat of this bread, and drink of this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Share communion with each other in whatever manner you are most comfortable. *Body of Christ given for you. Blood of Christ given for you.* When you are finished, return the plate of bread and the cup to the middle of the table.

Officiant: *May the body of and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

Finish your meal.

From the Meal to the Cross

Don't clear the table yet! When you have finished eating, remain at the table to continue the service.

A Reading from John: *After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am*

he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus.¹ Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

Sing together - (Sung to the tune of Where You There)

Where you there when they led my Lord away?

Where you there when they led my Lord away?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Where you there when they led my Lord away?

Slowly and quietly clear the table as one person reads all of Psalm 22. Reflect on the words of the Psalm and what it must have been like for Jesus to be left alone on trial, his disciples having ran away. Consider how Jesus must have felt as his clothing was taken off and he was whipped, his skin being slashed. Wonder what it must have been like if you had been there, seeing your teacher taken away and your faith shattered, leaving you bare like the table. If possible, leave your table bare until Friday evening when Good Friday is celebrated. What sacrifices might you have to make in order for that to happen?

After everything has been cleaned up from the meal, feel free to spend some time reflecting on tonight’s dinner church, sharing your thoughts and feelings and questions.

Thank you for participating in this service.