

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church - ELCA

Thursday, April 1st, 2021



This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

Call To Worship

One: Do you remember your last supper before the pandemic? The last meal you had out at a restaurant with friends? The last meal before fear and anxiety ran the conversation? If you had known it was your last, would you have lingered? Would you have ordered dessert? Would you have held your friends' hands and told them how much you loved them? If you had known, would you have washed their feet? Tonight we gather together, because this night was the beginning of the end. This night was Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Take a moment to imagine how Jesus must have felt. Pause for silence. Friends, with all of this in mind, I invite you to join me in our opening words:

C: Tonight we will hear, again and again, of a love that knows no bounds. May we be fully present here. May we worship holy God.

Call To Confession

The closer and closer we get to the crucifixion, The more earnest our prayers of confession feel. For we know that what was done to Jesus—Betrayal, humiliation, violence, and death—Are things we do to each other all the time. So with all earnestness, a sense of urgency, and a deep hope for transformation, We return to this prayer once again, Trusting that the God who holds the stars in the sky is holding us tonight. Let us confess together. . .

Prayer of Confession

Holy God who holds us together, If I were to place myself at your table, I would probably be Peter—Misunderstanding your radical hospitality, Sticking to the rules, Arguing what I do and

don't deserve. Then again, it's possible that I'd be Judas—The one who betrayed you, The one who failed to see the good right in front of him, The one who might have thought he wasn't worthy of your love. If I were to place myself at your table, It's possible I would be one of the unnamed disciples—Watching, but not speaking, Silently missing the opportunity To tell you what I believe and how much I love you. If I were to place myself at your table, I am confident that I would have made the same mistakes Your well-intentioned disciples made. There is no surprise there. What is surprising is that I know you would have washed my feet nonetheless. So forgive me, God. Wash not just my feet, but my hands and my head also. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

L: Family of faith, Jesus knew that Peter would deny. He knew that Judas would betray, And he knew the disciples would hide in fear. And still—and still—he invited them in. He washed their feet, and he fed them. Friends, we worship the living Christ Whose love shocks, surprises, and far exceeds our understanding of love. So may this story tonight remind us:

C: No matter who we are, No matter where we go, No matter how great our mistakes or regrets are in life, We will always be invited in and held together by the Living God. Again and again and again, we are forgiven. Again and again and again, we are held. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Go To Dark Gethsemane

Verse 1&2

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power; your redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour; turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray. Follow to the judgement hall, view the Lord of life arraigned; oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

Prayer of illumination

Jesus of Nazareth, If the disciples had known That the last supper would be their last meal with you Before the crucifixion, I bet they would have listened differently. I bet they would have put down their arguments, And leaned in with their whole bodies. I bet they would have asked questions And halted the small talk. I bet they would have taken notes and hung on your every word. Jesus of Nazareth, I want to listen like that. I want to listen like tonight might be the last time you speak. I want to listen like everything could change tomorrow. I want to listen like my soul depends on it. So gracious God, clear away anything in me that might distract. Clear away anything in me that might hinder my hearing and receiving of your word. I am listening. We are listening. With hope and honesty we pray. **C: Amen.**

Scripture:

Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ² This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell 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. ⁴ If 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. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ This 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. ¹² For 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. ¹³ The 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. ¹⁴ This 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.

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

² **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

¹² How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ 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, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In 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." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

John 13:1-38

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. ² The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹² 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? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ¹⁸ 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.' ¹⁹ I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me." ²¹ After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you,

one of you will betray me.” ²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. ²³ One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; ²⁴ Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵ So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?” ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “Do quickly what you are going to do.” ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. ³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ 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.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” ³⁶ 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.” ³⁷ Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” ³⁸ 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.

Message

Hymn of The Day

Go To Dark Gethsemane

Verse 3&4

Calvary's mournful mountain climb, there, adoring at his feet, mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete. “It is finished!” hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay; all is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away? Christ is risen! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

Affirmation of Faith

We are each a tapestry of stories. We are our stories of fear and grief, As well as our stories of love and joy. We believe that God sees all of these interwoven truths And says to our fragile selves:

“Come in. Come in from the cold, Come in from the rain, Come in from wherever you are, And be here tonight.” We believe that God then pours warm water into a basin To wash off the weariness of the day, The bruises of the past, And the doubt that clings to us. We believe that this act is an act of love. Similarly, we believe that God says to us: “Eat.” And God shares of God's self, And it is food not only for our bodies, but for our souls. We believe that all this happens Every time we close our eyes and imagine God, And every time we close our eyes and imagine God, We believe the parts of our tapestry that feel worn and frayed Are held together. So today, we remember. Today we say thank you. **Today, we know—we are held together.**

Prayers

Offering

Holy Communion

***Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you, **C: and also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts, **C: we lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosana in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosana in the highest, hosana in the highest.

*Words of Institution

***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 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**

P: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

***Lamb of God**

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Distribution (All Are Welcome to Receive Communion Here at GA Church)

*Post Communion Blessing

*** Post Communion Prayer**

L: 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. **C: Amen.**

Stripping of The Altar

You are welcome to stay for a time of Silence for reflection and prayer.

Upon leaving the service, please remain in silence until you have exited the church building, to allow silence for those who remain. (Do not gather in Narthex) Thank you.

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