

Sermon Pastor Knauss

## Following the sermon

In this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. 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 community of his Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are 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. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example the Lord gave us on the night before his death.
- It is, however, in the Holy Communion that 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 share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. The Eucharist is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other. At this time, we understand what it's like to be separated from one another. And until we can be together again, we can celebrate knowing that Christ is among us, walking with us in this darkened time.

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Let us make confession to God. (moment of silence for reflection). We pray - Almighty God, merciful Father:

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment.

But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen

Pastor - Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen* 

**Peace -** The peace of the Lord be with you always. *And also with you*.

Prayer of the Day - The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**First Reading:** Exodus 12:1-4; 11-14 A.J Groff

The first reading is from the twelfth chapter of Exodus.

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 David Zegac

The second reading is from the eleventh chapter of First Corinthians

<sup>23</sup>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, <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Word of God, word of

life. Thanks be to God.

**Gospel:** John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the thirteenth chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>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." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>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? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

<sup>31b</sup> Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>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.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you

also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

## The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.



- **The Prayers A** Lord as we pray, we kneel alongside Messiah Jesus, in Your presence, with the help of the Spirit.
- **#1** Blessed are You, Lord God, King of the universe. By Your mighty power You created us and all that exists. Throughout the ages, in Your mercy, You've called Your people out of slavery to oppression and distraction and reaffirmed Your covenant of love and forgiveness. For Your faithfulness to all people, we give You thanks. Lord, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer*.
- #2 Jesus Christ our Lord, You have established a new covenant with us, sealed with Your very Body and Blood. We praise You for the forgiveness we receive in Your name, and ask for the power of Your Holy Spirit to live day by day as Your disciples, ever to Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer*.
  - **#3** Blessed Holy Spirit, especially in this time of isolation and uncertainty, stir up our hearts with faith, hope, joy and love. Remember especially those who could not come to Your table because of illness, age or sore trial. Grant to them, as to us, a foretaste of the feast to come. Lord, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer*.
- Lord, today we especially pray for Andy (Allewelt), Julia (Pollock), Doug (Russell), Barbara (Yorke), Claudia (Pohl), Matthew (Mortimore), Vivian (Close), Marsenna (Rentel), Carol Jean (Bruner), Erin (Selcher), Jeff (DiVito), Judy (Viskupic), Angie (Benrahou). Receive Violet not Your Kingdom, Lord. Rest eternal grant her and let light perpetual she upon her. We pray for the freedom from suffering of all living creatures everywhere. We pray for all to whom death draws near this very day. We pray for those dear to us whom we now name in our hearts before You ... (a moment of silence). Faithful God deliver us from a sudden and unprepared for death and receive our prayers, as we watch and wait for Your coming. All these things and more we ask in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offertory Anthem Via Dolorosa Katie Ernst

**Offertory Prayer -** Let us pray. God of glory receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *Amen*.

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

### 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.

## **Stripping of the Altar**

**Denise Stearns** 

Linens, paraments, ornaments, and candles are removed from the altar and chancel. As this is done, Psalm 22 is read.

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

- <sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.
- <sup>3</sup> Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.
- <sup>5</sup> To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.
- <sup>6</sup> But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.
- <sup>7</sup> All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
- 8 "Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver— let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"
- <sup>9</sup> Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
- <sup>10</sup> On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.
- <sup>12</sup> Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
- <sup>13</sup> they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.
- <sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

- <sup>15</sup> my mouth [a] is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.
- <sup>16</sup> For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me.

My hands and feet have shriveled; [b]

- <sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;
- <sup>18</sup> they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.
- <sup>19</sup> But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!
- <sup>20</sup> Deliver my soul from the sword, my life<sup>[c]</sup> from the power of the dog!
- <sup>21</sup> Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued [d] me.
- <sup>22</sup> I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; [e] in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
- <sup>23</sup> You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- <sup>24</sup> For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;

he did not hide his face from me, $^{[f]}$  but heard when  $I^{[g]}$  cried to him.

- <sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- <sup>26</sup> The poor<sup>[h]</sup> shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!
- <sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.[i]

- <sup>28</sup> For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.
- $^{\mathbf{29}}$  To him,  $^{[j]}$  indeed, shall all who sleep in  $^{[k]}$  the earth bow down;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.[1]

- <sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,
- <sup>31</sup> and [m] proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Our Service is Ended.



## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

# **Foot/Hand Washing**

While Easter is every Sunday, the days of Maundy
Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are like
one great annual Sunday. Because of the pandemic,
we cannot do these important services together in
church. While Easter is a joyful festival, we keep it
now in a time of difficulty and worldwide sorrow.
Still, we believe that Christ is with us in his word, by
his Spirit drawing us together as one before God. We
believe that the gospel of Christ gives us strength
amid distress and comfort in the face of our
sufferings.

For this Maundy Thursday service, provide a bowl of water and a clean towel for each person present.

These resources for worship at home on the Three Days were developed by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw for Resurrection Lutheran Church, Arlington, Virginia, and are offered for ecumenical use.

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Set out bowls of water and clean towels. Sit with them before you and begin with these texts. Pray the prayer for this night:

Holy God, you are the source of all love.

Write Jesus' commandment to love others on our hearts. Give us the will to love and serve others in Jesus' name. **Amen.** 

Each person may wash their own hands, using the water in the bowl in front of them, recalling Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Or, if there are several worshipping together and it is safe to do so, each person may pour water on another's hands, thinking of the love of Jesus poured out on each of us in this difficult time. Please note, that this action may be entirely omitted, especially if someone in your house has tested positive for the coronavirus.

Then you may pray these intercessions for our church and world:

Let us pray. Blessed are you, holy God, for the church. Gather all the baptized around your presence in the Word. Strengthen the body of your people even when we cannot assemble for worship. Grant our

pastor and church leaders faithfulness and creativity for their ministry in this time. Accompany those preparing for baptism.

#### A brief silence.

Hear us, holy God. Blessed are you, bountiful God, for this good earth and for the flowering of springtime. Save dry lands from destructive droughts. Protect the waters from pollution. Allow in this time the planting of fields for food. Make us into caregivers of your plants and animals.

#### A brief silence.

Hear us, bountiful God. Blessed are you, almighty God, for our nation. Inspire all people to live in peace. Grant wisdom and courage to heads of state and to legislators as they face the coronavirus. Lead our elected officials to care for the needy.

#### A brief silence.

Hear us, almighty God. Blessed are you, faithful God, for you accompany suffering humanity with love. Be present wherever the coronavirus has struck. Visit all who mourn their dead. Reassure all who have contracted the virus. Strengthen the quarantined or those stranded away from home. Sustain those who have lost their employment. Give courage to those who fear the present and the future. Support physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organization.

#### A brief silence.

Hear us, faithful God. Blessed are you, gracious God, for you care for the needy. Feed the hungry. Protect the refugee. Embrace the distressed. House the homeless. Nurse the sick. Comfort the dying. Especially we pray for those we name before you now.

#### A brief silence.

Hear us, gracious God. Receive, merciful God, our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who died and rose that we might live with you, now and forever.

Amen.

#### Conclude with these words:

Put love above all else, and let Christ's peace rule in our hearts.