

Ascension Lutheran Church

Maundy Thursday April 9, 2020, 7 p.m.

Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

With nightfall 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. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. In our life together in Christ 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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to 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 called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Keep silence for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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,

through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.

The holy gospel according to John, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

^{31b}"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By 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.

SERMON **The Rev. Christina Auch**

HYMN OF THE DAY #347 **"Go to Dark Gethsemane"**

WASHING OF HANDS

In Jesus' time, people had to walk everywhere unless they were one of the few people who had a horse or a donkey. Most people wore sandals or went barefoot if they couldn't afford sandals. It was dry and dusty in Jesus' part of the world, and after walking many miles each day their feet would be dirty! When someone entered a house, the host would provide for the guest to have his or her feet washed, usually by a servant. So when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, they were shocked because he was acting like a servant, not like a master or a teacher. He was trying to teach them that we should all be servants to one another. No one should be a master over someone else and we should all take turns serving and being served.

If you have another person at home with you, wash their hands and let them wash yours. If you do not, wash your own hands, remembering that especially now our own handwashing is an act of service to our neighbor.

- **What did it feel like to get your hands washed by another person?** Was it uncomfortable to allow someone else serve you? Did any of you feel a little bit like Peter did?
- **This action is an expression of love and service, just like when Jesus did this for his friends.** What kinds of actions do you think Jesus was trying to teach us that we should do for others? How can we keep their eyes open for ways we can serve others?
- **What are some ways that we can serve others now?**

NICENE CREED

God has gathered his people into one Church through Christ. Together with sisters and brothers throughout the world, we confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of love, unite your church in its commitment to humble service. Make us your faithful disciples. Speak words of truth and grace through us. Encourage us in self-giving acts of kindness. Let us love one another as you have loved us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, tend to flocks, fields, and vineyards. Bring favorable weather for crops to grow. Guide the hands of those who cultivate, farm, and garden. Let the earth flourish so that all may eat and be satisfied. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you give us a new commandment, to have love for one another. We give thanks for organizations that respond to disasters and for agencies that offer relief and humanitarian aid. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, give ear to all who call upon you for any need of body or spirit. Provide for those who do not have enough to eat, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and those who rely on the generosity of others. We pray especially for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts...

Mary Allen (Karen Hubbard's friend), **Kathy** Backof (Donna Lilly's friend), **Dan** Birch (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Carolyn** Blitz (Bill Bridges' friend), **Kathy** Bradley (friend of Bill Bridges), **Jennings** Brooks (Jim Wilson's roommate), **Chris** Carman (Judy Bridges' friend), **Betty** Connor (Karen Hubbard's friend), **Edna** Cooper (Bill Bridges Aunt), **Joan** Craig (Clarann Schiavo's friend), **The Davenport Family** (Dave and Priscilla Williams' friend), **Pat** Farley (Karen Hubbard's friend), **Ann** Fitzsimmons (Steve and Jenny White's friend), **Evan** Greene (Allen Philbeck friend's son), **Mike** Greene (Gail Sherman's friend), **Markye and Carl** Greenwald (DeBells' friends), **The Holid Family** (friend of Lisa Philbeck), **Michael** Huntsinger (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mack** Jenkins (Dave Williams' friend), **Patti** Jenkins (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Steve** Jolly (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mark** Kent (Majorie Olsen's son), **Cathy** Kingsborough (friend of the Lacy/Smolzer family), **Becky and George** Kraft (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Jim** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Kevin** Lilly (Vicky Galloway's 2nd cousin), **Heather** Lyerly (Rose Cook's great niece), **Cathy** Lyerly (Rose Cook's sister-in-law), **Eva** McCombs (Sandra Waldrop's mother), **Jameson** McGill (Pastor Christina's friends' son), **Bernice** McDaniels (Dean Davis' daughter), **Janice** McGoven (Eleanor Hendricks' sister), **Charlotte** Morin (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Nancy** Norris (Charlie Berger's aunt), **Teresa** Olsen (Marjorie Olsen's daughter-in-law), **Bob** Patzer (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Margaret** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's mother), **Tommy** Price (Edith Kelly's nephew), **Beth** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Harold** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Lori** Rosamond (Pastor Christina's stepsister), **Pastor Eric** Sellers (Priscilla Williams'

friend), **Zuzana** Rybnicek (The Blalock's friend), **Jan** Tucker (Ozark bank employee), **The Vonbehren Family** (Barbara Davis' cousins), **Renee** Walton, **Molly and Darryl** Waterstraat (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Alfie** Welch (Renee Buchanan's brother), **Eric** West (Bob and Vickie Jones' son-in-law), **Christopher** Willever (David Williams' grandson), **Mary Ann** Woolley (Sandra Waldrop's aunt), **Denise and Savannah** Yount (Sandra Waldrop's friends)

Members: **Dean** Davis, **Lin** Washburn, **Dot** Paul, **Bob** Bryant, **Jane** Sneed, **William** Coyne, **Jim** Wilson, **Steve** Eckard, **Sandy** Harman, **Bobbie** Johnson, **Patricia** DuBose and **Bobby** Jones

In Undergraduate College: Emma Auch, Brooke Buchanan, Parker Hart, Elizabeth Hoffman, Samantha Hoffman, Jacob Stone

Those Awaiting Arrival of Children: Emma and Patrick Budzinski (daughter and son-in-law of Greg and Chrystal Blalock).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you invite us to your table of mercy. Heal all divisions between members of this assembly. Extend the hospitality of this table beyond these walls, that your love and welcome be made known to all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, glorify your servants who walked by faith in this life and who now feast with you. Inspire us by the sacrifice of those who were imprisoned, persecuted, or martyred for their faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

*Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.*

*Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.*

Or mail your regular tithe or offering to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

OFFERTORY

“Doxology”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The stripping of the altar reminds us of the humiliation experienced by Jesus Christ during his arrest, trial and crucifixion. Gathered in the sanctuary, we watch in silence as sacramental elements and vessels, linens, paraments, banners, and books are removed from the worship space. At home, you are invited to simply sit still, listen to the words of Psalm 22 and meditate upon God's great mercy in the face of the darkness of our sin.

Psalm 22

There is no benediction. The Three Days of Holy Week are one continuous service beginning tonight, continuing through Good Friday and ending with the Resurrection of Our Lord on Sunday morning.

All depart in silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coronavirus Response: All face to face, in person gatherings at Ascension are canceled through Sunday, May 10.

Prayer Concerns: Please call or email the office or text Pastor Christina at 704-472-7783 to update prayer requests. You may leave a voicemail but please provide the spelling of any names, and your relationship to the person being prayed for.

Please continue your tithes and offerings. Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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