**Maundy Thursday**

**Dobbs Ferry Lutheran Church**

**April 9, 2020**

Today, Maundy Thursday is the beginning of the holiest time of the church year. We experience Jesus’ final meal with His closest followers and as He leaves to die on the cross at Calvary.

To prepare for worship: I invite you to find a slice of bread and cup of juice or wine for Communion. If that isn’t possible, know that your desire for union with Jesus IS Holy Communion.

Pause the video while you gather the bread and cup

We continue to gather by computer to protect the vulnerable in our community. I invite you to join me in the responses to the prayers and readings.

Close your eyes. Take a deep breath. Put your cares and concerns at the foot of the cross. Notice God noticing us as we begin our worship.

**Order of Confession and Forgiveness**

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord’s call to struggle against sin and all that keeps us from loving God and each other.

God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this Maundy Thursday let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor and enter the celebration of Holy Week reconciled with God and with one another.

**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.**

(This is the time where traditionally, you would have come to the altar to have hands placed on your head to hear God’s words of forgiveness given individually, specifically to you. Close your eyes and hear them now.)

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins. **Amen**

**Prayer of the Day**

**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.**

The holy gospel according to John, the thirteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Now 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.’

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? 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.

13bJesus said, ‘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.’

**Homily**

How are we loving each other these days?

How are we loving our neighbor?

It seems silly to ask that question today

I mean how can we love each other or our neighbor

When we can’t even leave the house?

How can we do this action of loving if we

Can’t even touch each other?

I came across this video on Face Book

It’s part of a song by Kate Tempest

Called “Faces”

I have watched it multiple times

And when I feel like this is just a mess

And I am so scared I can’t think

The words come to me

We're working every dread day that is given us  
Feeling like the person people meet  
Really isn't us  
Like we're going to buckle underneath the trouble  
Like any minute now  
The struggle's going to finish us

And then we smile at all our friends

Even when I'm weak and I'm breaking  
I'll stand weeping at the train station  
'Cause I can see your faces

There is so much peace to be found in people's faces

I love, people's, faces.

this video reassures me that we can get through this

and even if we can only love each other

on line

on the phone

by donating blood or food

supporting those at the front lines

we can remember the faces of those we love

and imagine the people we are called to love

this is still love

This I how we love one another as God first loved us

amen

**Prayers of the Church**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. When you hear the words, Hear us, O God, please answer, “Your mercy is great.”

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, you give us a new commandment, to have love for one another. We give thanks for all those people who are currently risking their lives during the pandemic to serve the rest of us. Protect them. 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. Be with the victims of the virus, those grieving loved ones, those afraid for their health or concerned about finances, the lonely during this time of social distancing, the addicted, those with high anxiety and anyone we name in our hearts at this time. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, give us the humility to be open to allow others to wash our feet. Open the eyes of our hearts and give us the courage to wash another’s feet. 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.**

**Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the 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.

**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**

Taste the overflowing grace of God, unconditional love and forgiveness in the presence of Jesus.

**Communion**

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

**Table Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Post Communion Prayer**

How grateful we are for this meal you have prepared for us, most gracious God. Open us to receive the gift of your love in this Holy Communion. Let it nourish us when we feel depleted, sustain us when times are difficult, comfort us when we are sorrowful and enhance our joys when our cups overflow. Let it be that this meal will enable us to nurture others. For the meal we have eaten, O God, make us truly thankful. And the people of God say **Amen.**

**Stripping of the Altar**

***As we strip the altar remembering Christ’s leaving supper for the cross, please meditate while we listen to Psalm 22***

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
    Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?  
2O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
    and by night, but find no rest.

3Yet you are holy,  
    enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
4In you our ancestors trusted;  
    they trusted, and you delivered them.  
5To you they cried, and were saved;  
    in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

6But I am a worm, and not human;  
    scorned by others, and despised by the people.  
7All 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!”

9Yet it was you who took me from the womb;  
    you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.  
10On you I was cast from my birth,  
    and since my mother bore me you have been my God.  
11Do not be far from me,  
    for trouble is near  
    and there is no one to help.

12Many bulls encircle me,  
    strong bulls of Bashan surround me;  
13they open wide their mouths at me,  
    like a ravening and roaring lion.

14I am poured out like water,  
    and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
    it is melted within my breast;  
15my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,  
    and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
    you lay me in the dust of death.

16For dogs are all around me;  
    a company of evildoers encircles me.  
My hands and feet have shriveled;  
17I can count all my bones.  
They stare and gloat over me;  
18they divide my clothes among themselves,  
    and for my clothing they cast lots.

19But you, O Lord, do not be far away!  
    O my help, come quickly to my aid!  
20Deliver my soul from the sword,  
    my life from the power of the dog!  
21    Save me from the mouth of the lion!

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.  
22I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;  
    in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:  
23You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
    All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
    stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!  
24For he did not despise or abhor  
    the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me,  
    but heard when I cried to him.

25From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
    my vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
26The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
    those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
    May your hearts live forever!

27All the ends of the earth shall remember  
    and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations  
    shall worship before him.  
28For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
    and he rules over the nations.

29To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
    before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
    and I shall live for him.  
30Posterity will serve him;  
    future generations will be told about the Lord,  
31and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
    saying that he has done it.

Please spend some time in silence.