**Maundy thursday- April 1, 2021**

**Zion, Philipsburg, St. Peters, Linwood**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: This is the day

**All: that Christ gathered with his disciples in an upper room.**

One: This is the day

**All: that Christ shared a meal as a sign of his great love.**

One: This is the day

**All: that Christ took a towel and washed the disciples’ feet, showing us how to serve others.**

One: This is the day

**All: that the Lord has made.**

**Invitation to lent**

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord’s call to struggle against all that keeps us from loving God and each other. Over this past year, the experience of pandemic has deepened our experience of human separation and given a more intense desire for community with each other, with our world, and with God. This has been a struggle, but it is the struggle to which we were called in Baptism.

Hear then the Good News - God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbour and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and one another.

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

God who is love, we come admitting the brokenness in our lives: the brokenness between our ourselves and our neighbours, the brokenness between nations, the brokenness between humanity and creation.

Give us the courage to acknowledge this truth.

Give us the faith to trust your presence.

Give us the desire to share your healing,

promised and provided in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We are forgiven. We are reconciled. We are one. Thanks be to God!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to our Maundy Thursday service on April 1, 2021, where we gather in spirit to pray and acknowledge the love of Jesus Christ on his night of betrayal.

Tonight, we will share in the sacrament of communion. I invite you to prepare your table with wine or juice and bread.

Our final Lent in a bag item is the cross, the symbol of both death and resurrection. In this journey of Lent 2021 we have been reminded of our faith through the physical items of sand, a rock, a shell, a pipe cleaner person, a bulb, a candle and a cross. I invite you to reflect on these items and what this journey of Lent has meant to you.

I ask that you keep the following families in your prayers, Murray and Helen Hoerle on the sudden passing of their daughter Marta in California on Mar 17. We also keep Grandma Esther Hoerle and Aunt and Uncle Brenda Hoerle-Dale and Terry Dale in our prayers. Jim Doering brother to David Doering passed away on March 29, and David’s nephew Pat Johnston passed away suddenly on March 28.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**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, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

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

The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

The holy gospel according to John.

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.”  
  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.

**SERMON**

When you think of love and the feeling or emotion of love, what comes to your mind? Is it the passionate or intense kind of love shared between partners known in Greek as *eros* love*?* Or perhaps you think of love in a more friendly, loyal, or affectionate type of way. This is known in Greek as *philia* love. It is the love shared between friends or those on a team. A third type of love is known in Greek as *agape*  love. This is the highest and most radical type of love and has nothing to do with romance or desire. It is a self-sacrificing love that accepts and forgives. It is a love that is bigger than us providing unlimited compassion and empathy for others. It is the purest form of love that is free from expectations, it is complete, it is unconditional. It is the love shown by Jesus to the disciples on the night of his betrayal when he shared his food with them, when he removed his outer robe, tied a towel around his waist and washed the feet of those around him. There was no judgement; Jesus washed the feet of Peter, who would deny him, James and John who are unable to keep watch and pray with him, and Judas the one who would betray him.

The love was not so much in the physical washing of their feet. Their feet would have been dirty, hot, and tired. There were no sidewalks or pavement to walk on, and no running shoes or boots to keep their feet clean. The roads were rocky and reddish coloured dust from the soil dirtied their sandals and feet as they walked. The love was in the act of washing their feet, it was in the act of servanthood. The Greek word used for Jesus removing or laying down his robe is *tithesin,* in John 10:15-18, Jesus states that he is laying down his life (*tithemi*) for his sheep. The act of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples symbolizes not only his death on the cross but his resurrection. It symbolizes the *agape* love that God has for us through the death and resurrection of God’s only Son.

On this night when Jesus was betrayed, the momentum shifted, and a transition took place. Jesus knew that his hour had come, his mission in the world would be fulfilled. In the gospel of John, Jesus’ mission is to reveal God to the world, and in the hour of his death that mission is complete, God’s love is wholly and completely revealed in glory.

When I look back over the past year, I have seen many acts of compassionate and *agape* love and service in our world and in this congregation. Folks have stayed home to slow the rising numbers. There have been countless phone calls made to one another, masks have been worn, and hands have been washed and sanitized millions of times. There have been groceries and meals delivered, errands have been run, and now with our country receiving millions of vaccines, we roll up our sleeves as a sign of love. Now do not get me wrong, we have done many of these tasks to keep ourselves safe, but we have also done it for others; for our loved ones in LTC, for family members who are elderly or immunocompromised, for coworkers, for first responders, and for our communities. We do it so that we can see our family again, so that we can hug each other, so that we can one day worship and commune together in our church building that offers comfort and respite from a weary world. We do it because we love one another. As members of the body of Christ through our baptism we love one another not because we are told to do so, we do it because God in Christ has loved us from the very beginning, from the day of creation we have been loved.

When we love one another and see the humanity in one another we are seeing and living out the presence of God in our lives. We see the presence of God in our neighbour, knowing that each of us regardless of skin colour, regardless of sexual preference, regardless of culture has been created out of the glory and greatness of God, all are created in God’s image, all are beloved children of God.

On this night so long, Jesus completed an act of servanthood for those around him, he fed them and asked them to love one another. As we commune together on this Maundy Thursday of 2021 I invite you to take a moment to reflect on what this night means to us as Christians in the world. When we share in the bread and the wine, the body and blood of Jesus Christ tonight, we are sharing in the servanthood of Jesus Christ, we are sharing in the unconditional love of God through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. We are sharing our love with one another. Let it be so. Amen

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Where Charity and Love Prevail*  (ELW 359)**

1 Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love,  
by love we thus are bound.  
  
2 With grateful joy and holy fear,  
God's charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and soul  
now love God in return.  
  
3 Let us recall that in our midst  
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;  
as members of each body joined,  
in him we are made one.  
  
4 Let strife among us be unknown;  
let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek;  
be his our only peace.  
  
5 Let us forgive each other's faults  
as we our own confess,  
that we may love each other well  
in Christian gentleness.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United by the servant love of God in Christ, we pray this holy night for the needs of the world. *A brief silence.*

You call your people to hand on what we receive from you. Form all the baptized into teachers of faith. From one generation to the next, give your church hunger for your promises in the sacraments and joy in receiving and sharing your word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your creation provides all that we need. Cleanse and protect the water you have given for washing and drinking, water on which all life depends. Sustain crops and herds that provide food; teach us how to live so that there is enough for all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You redeemed your people from slavery. Preserve people throughout the world who flee violence and oppression. Establish just leadership in place of tyranny and peace in place of war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus loved his followers to the end. Grant assurance of that love to all who need it: those living with guilt, those struggling to forgive, those who are lonely or overlooked. Heal the sick and embrace the dying. We especially remember Eddy, Elaine B, Susie, Donelda, Lynette, Barb, Sarah, Alea, Mary Ann, Cheryl, Bonnie, Mary, Ruth, Tilly, Danielle, Kyle, Mila, and Theo, Nancy, Dave, the family of Marta Herron, the family of Jim Doering and Pat Johnson, Shirley, and those we name in the stillness of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Jesus washed the feet of the one who betrayed him. Inspire this congregation’s ministries of service, that we love as Jesus loved us. Give us renewed courage to serve. Bless the ministry of deacons throughout the church. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your glory shone in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We thank you for generations of the faithful who have proclaimed our Lord’s death. Unite us with them in hope until he comes again. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Hear these and all our prayers, O God, in the name of the one who loves us to the end, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Creator of heaven and earth, you spoke, and order emerged from chaos,

creation from the formless void, to bring light from darkness.

You formed us in your image and called us to be your people.

You spoke words of truth and law and created a community for us.

Through the prophets, you called us to work for justice and peace.

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh and lived among us,

and in him we have seen your full glory.

He shared our human nature; he lived and died as one of us.

He taught those who sought to follow his way; he healed the sick, cured the blind, he ate and drank with outcasts.

He proclaimed the good news of your kingdom.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, for the gift of your love and grace that we receive through him.

Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine,

that they may become the body and blood of Christ for us.

Nourished by them, may we become the body of Christ in the world.

On this 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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord’s Passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray,

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. **Amen.**

**PSALM 22**

1My 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!  
 21Save 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.

*The service ends….*

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