

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Maundy Thursday
zionlutheranaberndeen.org



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

PRELUDE

Thine the Glory

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight we sit at table with our Lord.

We remember the story of how God saved our people in a time of trial.

Tonight we sit with our Lord who is about to go to his death.

Let us walk with him on this journey. Let us watch as feet are washed by the servant of all. Let us be strengthened with his body and blood. Let us come and worship our servant Lord.

HYMN

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Life

ELW #708

Refrain

Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*
- 2 Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are near us and far away. *Refrain*
- 3 These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain*
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,

silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain*

CONFESSION & 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.

Silence is kept 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.

PEACE

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together: 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

In the Hour of Trial
Piano/Organ Duet

Lani Smith

GOSPEL

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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. ³¹When he had gone out, Jesus 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."

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Jim Holthus

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

- 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain*

- 3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray to the Lord, the God in heaven and on earth.

Holy Father, we pray for all who seek assurance of your forgiveness and mercy. Help us to have faith in the words "shed for you".

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for renewal as we eat and drink the body and blood of your dear son at your table. As he suffered rejection, remind us that this is his blood on our hands.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Spirit, we pray for forgiveness and new life found through Jesus Christ our Lord who on this night was betrayed. May we have hearts of faith and not of betrayal.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are a God of grace and mercy, and we pray that these gifts are poured out for all of your people. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

LITANY & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray in confidence the words our Savior gave 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

Tonight is the reason why we come to this table. This is the night when our Lord sat at the table, loved others even when they would betray him, and changed the world forever. This is Christ's table, made holy by his body and blood, with this bread and cup. This is Christ's table and no one can deny you coming to it no matter how worthy or ready you feel you may be. Come. Receive nourishment, and be made whole.

As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
We eat and drink with thanks in our hearts, remembering all that Jesus has done for us.

RITE OF FIRST COMMUNION

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevails

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.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

And now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which you have received, strengthen you and keep you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together: Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for refreshing and renewing us with this meal - for nourishing our lives with the gracious gift of your life. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

There in God's Garden

ELW #342

- 1 There in God's garden
stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth
the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge,
Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.
- 2 Its name is Jesus,
name that says, "Our Savior!"
There on its branches
see the scars of suff'ring;
see where the tendrils
of our human selfhood
feed on its lifeblood.
- 3 Thorns not its own
are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it,
our despite has choked it.
Yet, look! it lives!
its grief has not destroyed it
nor fire consumed it.
- 4 See how its branches
reach to us in welcome;
hear what the Voice says,
"Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness,
give me all your sorrow,

I will give blessing."

- 5 This is my ending,
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.
- 6 All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR