

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



CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight, we sit at the table with our Lord.

We remember the story of how God saves.

Tonight, we sit at the table with our Lord

as he speaks the truth that is empowering and uncomfortable.

Tonight, we sit at the table our Lord, bringing our broken ways,

yet trusting it is He that restores us.

Tonight, we sit at the table with our Lord.

Come, let us be witnesses, be forgiven, and be changed by him.

Tonight, hear the words of Jesus for you, that in the meal Christ gives himself for you to be healed from the broken ways that make life difficult. It is he who forgives you, raises you up, and restores your being. It is he who gives his life—body and blood broken and shed for you.

A moment of silence.

Divine Servant, you gave up all the power of the universe to serve humanity in the body of one who would endure great suffering. By your ultimate sacrifice, you taught us how to serve.

Make us grateful servants of the people of the earth, feeding our souls with your holy meal, for the sake of the one who held back nothing to give us everything, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE DAY:

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 Savior, 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 the 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.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Love Consecrates the Humblest Act

READING

Luke 22:1-6

¹Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. ²The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. ³Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. ⁵They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. ⁶So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Let us pray. Bread of Life, **when those around us seek to fulfill a personal agenda rather than focus upon your mission, help us to live with humility and kindness toward them. Help us to remember they are not our enemy but a neighbor to be invited in and welcomed to our table, just as you welcomed the one who would betray you. Amen.**

READING

Luke 22:7-13

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it." ⁹They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?" ¹⁰Listen, he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" ' ¹²He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there." ¹³So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Let us pray. Bread of Life, **you tasked the disciples to go and prepare a place for the sacred meal, giving them guidance and direction. Help us to trust and listen to your guidance and direction as you send us to go prepare places and create spaces for sacred relationship with you and others. Amen.**

READING

Luke 22:14-23

¹⁴When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks

he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. ²²For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" ²³Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Let us pray. Bread of Life, **in wine and bread you give yourself to us. You pour yourself out for us. Redirect us to be focused on your nourishment and not the nourishment of the world. Give us courage to get on our knees and lift our face to take in the healing power of your bread and wine, anointing us with your very self. Amen.**

READING

Luke 22:24-27

²⁴A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Let us pray. Bread of Life, **how quickly we turn from what you provide to our own agendas and worries of success. Help us to live with humility and kindness under your authority, proclaiming your mighty deeds, living to serve you and others. Amen.**

HYMN

Let us Break Bread Together

ELW #471

- 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*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus gathered with his most trusted companions and spoke to the way of life to them. This is why we come to this table. As He sat at the table, we sit together here. As the Lord commanded to serve, we will serve even if betrayal is probable. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

When we eat this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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.**

RITE OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of The Lord's Supper bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's Table.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May we be blessed by the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which we have received, keeping us strong and steadfast for the days to come. **Amen.**

READING

Luke 22:39-54

³⁹He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." ⁴¹Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.

[⁴³Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.] ⁴⁵When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" ⁴⁹When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. ⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? ⁵³When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

⁵⁴Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Let us pray. Formidable God, **you show strength at times when others show weakness. You walk boldly into a future that is dark, while leaning into hope as the mission of God unfolds. Teach us, Jesus, to do the same. Amen.**

HYMN

Stay with Me

ELW #348

(repeat until leaders draws to close)

Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray.
Watch and pray.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

As the disciples watched the Lord be taken away, we now watch as the images of Christ are removed from our vision. Please come forward to immerse yourself in this experience. Do not be afraid. It is a sacred honor to walk into the difficult truth, that Emmanuel is so invested in your wellbeing, he would be stripped of his glory to show you love.

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.

Stay with Me

Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray.
Watch and pray.

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.

Stay with Me

Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray.
Watch and pray.

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.

Stay with Me

Stay with me,
remain here with me,

watch and pray.
Watch and pray.

- 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.

Stay with Me

Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray.
Watch and pray.

- 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.

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