

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.**

SONG

Love Consecrates the Humblest Act

ELW #360

- 1 Love consecrates the humblest act
and haloes mercy's deeds;
it sheds a benediction sweet
and hallows human needs.
- 2 When in the shadow of the cross
Christ knelt and washed the feet
of his disciples, he gave us
a sign of love complete.
- 3 Love serves and willing stoops to serve;
what Christ in love so true
has freely done for one and all,
let us now gladly do!

READING

John 13:1-11

The Servant's Heart

¹ 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. ² The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Let us pray. Living Water, you wash not just our feet and hands and head, but our innermost selves with your service to us, cleansing us and restoring us. **Bring us to renewal, Lord. Help us see we have been made new, cleansed by the waters of baptism to have abundant life. Amen.**

READING**John 13:12-20***A Life of Service*

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, 'The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Let us pray. Great Shepherd, you teach us how to love by living a life of service to one another.

Help us to trust and listen to your guidance and direction, being humble to your teachings. Let us receive you, so we too may grow closer to the one who sent you. Amen.

READING**John 13:21-30***Betrayal of the Servant*

²¹ After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. ²³ One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining close to his heart; ²⁴ Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵ So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." ²⁸ Now no one knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord, who is the way, the truth and life, how quickly we turn from what you give and provide to turn to our own agendas. **Help us live authentically with you, Lord, as not to betray the love you heap upon us. Amen.**

READING**John 13:31-38***The New Commandment*

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little 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.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." ³⁷ Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸ Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times."

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Let us pray. Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we confuse love with possession and often take love for granted. **Help us to see the love which comes from you is neither a thing to hold onto selfishly or to be overlooked. Help us to live the greatest command of living love, as you have lived it for us in acts of sacrificial service. 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

John 18:1-14

When the Meal was Over

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵ They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go." ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

¹² So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

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.**

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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