

Maundy Thursday

April 1, 2021

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now - 4

Grant that I Your passion view
With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?

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The name Maundy is derived through Middle English and Old French from the Latin word for “commandment” It was on this night Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

Maundy Thursday is the night Jesus was betrayed. We are reminded of this each time the Words of Institution of the Lord's Supper are spoken. While celebrating the Passover with his beloved disciples, Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Altar. In it He gives His very body and blood in, with and under the bread and the wine for us Christians to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins. During this time of sheltering at home and social distancing we will experience a most unusual Maundy Thursday observance without the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Although Holy Communion is not possible at this time, it is a good time to remind ourselves of the meaning and proper use of the Sacrament as we anxiously await the day when we can gather again at the Lord's Table.

Luther's Small Catechism

The Sacrament of the Altar

AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SHOULD TEACH IT IN A SIMPLE WAY TO HIS HOUSEHOLD

- L** What is the Sacrament of the Altar?
- C** It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.
- L** Where is this written?
- C** The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write:
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”
- L** What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?
- C** These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.
- L** How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?
- C** Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the

main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

L Who receives this sacrament worthily?

C Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

Hymn: Not All the Blood of Beasts Lutheran Service Book 431; Lutheran Worship 99; The Lutheran Hymnal 156



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con - science peace Or wash a - way the stain.
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

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L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,

C have mercy and hear us.

Introit *Ps. 116:1–4; antiphon: Ps. 116:5*

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
our God is merciful.

**I love the Lord, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

**The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.**

Then I called on the name of the Lord:
"O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"

**Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
our God is merciful.**

Kyrie

☩ Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect

℟ O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that we turn from our wickedness and live. Graciously behold Your people who plead to You and spare us. Be moved in mercy to turn away this pestilence from us; for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST DRAWN FROM THE FOUR GOSPELS

The Lord's Supper: Part I

† Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, also called the Passover, drew near, and Jesus said to his disciples: "You know that after two days is the Feast of the Passover, and the Son of Man will be given over to be crucified."

† Then the chief priests and scribes assembled with the elders of the people in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and consulted how they might take Jesus craftily and put him to death. But they said, "Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people," for they feared the people.

† Then Satan entered into Judas, surnamed Iscariot, one of the Twelve. He went his way to the chief priests and captains and spoke together with them how he might betray Jesus to them. They were glad to hear him. He said to them, "What will you give me to betray him to you?"

They promised to give him money and agreed with him for thirty pieces of silver. He accepted, and from that time he sought opportunity to betray him in the absence of the multitude.

† Then came the first day of Unleavened Bread when they sacrificed the Passover lamb. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover, that we may eat it."

They said to him, "Where do you want us to prepare it?"

† He said to them, "Go into the city and, when you have entered the city, watch for a man bearing a pitcher of water. When he meets you, follow him into the house where he enters. You shall say to the man who lives there, 'The Master says to you, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house. Where is room for me to eat the Passover with my disciples?'"' And he will show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us."

The disciples did as Jesus had directed them. They came into the city and found it as he had told them; and they made ready the Passover.

Psalm 116:12–19 (antiphon: v. 17)

¹²What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?

¹³**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,**

¹⁴I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵**Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.**

¹⁶O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

Praise the LORD!

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST DRAWN FROM THE FOUR GOSPELS

The Lord's Supper: Part II

† When the hour was come, Jesus sat down and the apostles with him. As they were eating, he said, "I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I say to you I shall not eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

As they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

† In the same way also he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

"Truly I say to you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of my Father."

† There was also a strife among them as to which of them should be accounted the greatest. He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' It shall not be so among you. He that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that serves. For who is greater, he that sits at the table or he that serves? Is it not he that sits at the table? But I am among you as a servant. You are they who have continued with me in my temptations. I appoint you to a kingdom, as my Father has appointed me. You shall eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

† Jesus knew that his hour was come to depart from the world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who are in the world, he loved them to the end. Already Satan had put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God.

Verse of the Day Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

John 13:1b

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST DRAWN FROM THE FOUR GOSPELS

The Lord's Supper: Part III

† He rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded.

† When he came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but after these things you will understand."

Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me."

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."

Jesus said to him, "He who has been bathed does not need to wash more than his feet, for he is clean altogether. You are clean, but not all of you." He knew who was to betray him; that was why he said not every one was clean.

† So after he had washed their feet and taken his garments and sat down again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me the Master and the Lord, and it is good that you say this, for so I am. If I, then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. I have done this

to show you the way to do as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his lord; neither is he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If you know these things, happy are you if you do them.

“I do not speak of you all; I know whom I have chosen. The Scripture must be fulfilled, ‘He that eats bread with me has lifted up his heel against me.’ Already now I tell you of this, before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe that I am he.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives anyone whom I shall send, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives him who sent me.”

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Devotional Thoughts

The account of Jesus washing the disciples' feet is recorded in John 13:1-20. It happened “on the night He was betrayed”—Maundy Thursday. After the foot washing, Jesus declared, “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:14-15).

Jesus characterizes this humble act of foot washing as the vocation of his disciples. This attitude of humility and service also ought to occupy present-day disciples of Jesus.

Ironically, immediately following this sincere act of love, Judas left the room to betray Jesus! Jesus' love did not penetrate Judas' heart. He was intent on following his own desires and his own course of action.

Holy Week is a time for us to ponder Jesus' holy passion. We meditate on His anguish and affliction. We see His extraordinary love for us and all humanity.

And then we forget. We immediately leave Jesus behind to serve our self-interests. We forget to wash feet and serve others. We forget His new commandment to love one another.

We need forgiveness. We need the forgiveness that Jesus won for us on the cross. We don't just need it now and then. We need it every minute of every day for the rest of our lives here on earth!

Lent has been a time of repentance and returning to the Lord. But Lent is simply a reminder that we constantly must repent and return to the Lord and receive His absolution.

We receive this gracious blessing of forgiveness by faith! We receive it through the word of absolution. We receive it through the water and the word of baptism. We receive it through Christ's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine consecrated by the word of God. As long as we have faith, we are never without this forgiveness (Romans 5:2). We stand secure in our Savior's mercy until we reach our heavenly home.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST DRAWN FROM THE FOUR GOSPELS

The Lord's Supper: Part IV

† When Jesus had said these things, his spirit was in turmoil. He bore witness and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you that one of you will betray me.”

The disciples looked at one another dumbfounded about whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was leaning on Jesus' bosom. Simon Peter said to him, “Ask who it is of whom he is speaking.”

That disciple who was reclining on Jesus' chest said to him, “Lord, who is it?”

† Jesus then answered, “It is the one to whom I shall give the piece of bread after I have dipped it.”

He dipped the piece of bread he had in his hand and gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. After the piece of bread had been dipped, Satan entered into that one. Jesus said to him, “What you are doing, do quickly.”

† No one at the table knew what the purpose was of what Jesus had said to him. Because Judas kept the money bag, some thought Jesus had told him to buy what was needed for the feast or to give something to the poor. When that man had received the piece of bread, he went out immediately, and it was night.

† When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and in him God is glorified. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify him in himself, and at once he will glorify him.

† “Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you. For this I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

† Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but afterwards you will follow me.”

L I cry to You, O Lord;

C in the morning my prayer comes before You.

L Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

C and uphold me with a willing spirit.

L My mouth is filled with Your praise,

C and with Your glory all the day.

L Every day I will bless You

C and praise Your name forever and ever.

L By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness,

C O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

L Bless the Lord, O my soul;

C and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

L He redeems your life from the pit

C and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

L Hear my prayer, O Lord;

C let my cry come to You.

L Let us pray. Spare Your people, O Lord! Preserve us from this and every illness. Give healing and strength to those who are sick, protect those who care for them, and grant us steady minds and calm hearts in the face of fear. Comfort and protect those we hold dear in our hearts and especially those who are far from us. You have borne our infirmities in this human flesh and purchased us with Your own blood. Keep us in this faith and embolden us in love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

C 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.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

Hymn: Go to Dark Gethsemane, Lutheran Service Book **436**; Lutheran Worship 110; The Lutheran Hymnal 159



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar - rained; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!
at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,
breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"
Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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