

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**April 9, 2020**

**PRELUDE**

“Sanctus” from REQUIEM

Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924)

**CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER**

A table is set before us. A feast is prepared for us.

**A meal of bread and wine, of meat and bitter herbs.**

The Lord calls us to this supper of remembrance.

**The Lord calls us to serve and to be served.**

As we break the bread and share the cup,

**our understanding may fail us.**

But we will never forget Christ’s example.

**We will never forget the full extent of his love.**

Let us pray: Hoy 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 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**

**OPENING HYMN No. 202**

*“An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare”*

O WALY WALY

An Upper Room did our Lord prepare  
for those he loved until the end:  
and his disciples still gather there  
to celebrate their Risen Friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:  
to share his bread, his loving cup.  
Whatever burdens may bow us down,  
he by his Cross shall lift us up.

And after Supper he washed their feet  
for service, too, is sacrament.  
In Christ our joy shall be made complete –  
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

No end there is! We depart in peace,  
he loves beyond our uttermost:  
in every room in our Father’s house  
he will be there as Lord and Host.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.**

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

After Jesus had washed the disciples' feet, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

Friends, believe the good news.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

## **RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 205**

*"Live in Charity"*

TAIZÉ CHANT

Live in charity and steadfast love.

Live in charity; God will dwell with you. (*Sung 3x*)

## **SCRIPTURE READING & MEDITATION** (*John 13:1-17, 31b – 35*)

### **PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

United with Christians around the globe on this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the church, the earth, our troubled world, and all in need, responding to each petition with the words:

**Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, holy God, for the church. Gather all the baptized around your presence in the Word. Strengthen the body of your people even when we cannot assemble for worship. Grant our presbytery and congregation faithfulness and creativity for their ministry in this time.

Hear us, holy God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, bountiful God, for this good earth and for the flowering of springtime. Save dry lands from destructive droughts. Protect the waters from pollution. Allow in this time the planting of fields for food. Make us into care-givers of your plants and animals.

Hear us, bountiful God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God, for our nation. Inspire all people to live in peace and concord. Grant wisdom and courage to heads of state and to legislators as they face the coronavirus. Lead our elected officials to champion the cause of the needy.

Hear us, sovereign God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, faithful God, for you accompany suffering humanity with love. Abide wherever the coronavirus has struck. Visit all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. Support physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organization.

Hear us, faithful God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, for you care for the needy. We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. Especially we pray for those we name before you now.

Hear us, gracious God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, loving God, that your Son knelt before us, your unworthy servants. Preserve our lives, comfort our anxiety, and receive now the petitions of our hearts.

*A period of silence.*

Hear us, loving God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive merciful God, our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the host of our meal of life, who died and rose that we might live with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

For Holy Communion this evening we invite you to lend Christ your table. On Palm Sunday, people throughout Judea arrived at the dusty gates of Jerusalem, primed with "Hosanna" in their hearts and Jesus asked to borrow a donkey.

On the Thursday that followed, Jesus rented or was given an Upper Room to celebrate the Passover with the disciples.

On the afternoon of the Resurrection, Jesus was invited in a house in Emmaus and used the bread of that hospitality to break and bless.

Lord Christ, your table, your bread, your cup and your heart, for, as the disciples told the person who loaned the donkey, "The Lord has need of it."

### **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church community is scattered, in your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

**Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on grace. Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon every table where your child shelters in place, that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.**

### **WORDS OF REMEMBERING**

We remember that Paul, the apostle, wrote letters to congregations throughout places we now call Greece, Turkey, and Macedonia, and they were the first "remote" worship resources. Our online service has a long heritage. The Communion words sent to the church at Corinth were these: For 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, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In 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.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes again.

### **SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.  
**We are one in Christ in the bread we share.**

*The bread is shared.*

Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.  
**We are one in Christ in the cup we share.**

*The cup is shared.*

### **THE TENEBRAE LITURGY**

This evening we are following a medieval liturgy called the Tenebrae. Tenebrae is the Latin word for darkness or shadows and this service is a representation of the darkness that covered the world at the death of Jesus. We will read through the words spoken to Jesus on this day and candles will be extinguished until we are in darkness.

#### **Reading 1 – The soldier’s words (Mark 15:16-32)**

The soldiers led Jesus inside the courtyard of the fortress and called together the rest of the troops. They put a purple robe on him, and on his head, they placed a crown that they had made out of thorn branches. They made fun of Jesus and shouted, “Hey, you king of the Jews!” Then they beat him on the head with a stick. They spit on him and knelt down and pretended to worship him.

When the soldiers had finished making fun of Jesus, they took off the purple robe. They put his own clothes back on him and led him off to be nailed to a cross. Simon from Cyrene happened to be coming in from a farm, and they forced him to carry Jesus’ cross. Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.

*Candle is extinguished*

#### **Reading 2 – Pilate’s words (John 19:7-22)**

“Kill him! Kill him!” they yelled. “Nail him to a cross!”

“So you want me to nail your king to a cross?” Pilate asked.

The chief priests replied, “The Emperor is our king!” Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be nailed to a cross.

Jesus was taken away, and he carried his cross to a place known as “The Skull.” In Aramaic this place is called “Golgotha.” There Jesus was nailed to the cross, and on each side of him a man was also nailed to a cross.

Pilate ordered the charge against Jesus to be written on a board and put above the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” The words were written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. The place where Jesus was taken wasn’t far from the city, and many of the Jewish people read the charge against him. So, the chief priests went to Pilate and said, “Why did you write that he is King of the Jews? You should have written, ‘He claimed to be King of the Jews.’”

But Pilate told them, “What is written will not be changed!” “What I’ve written, I’ve written.”

*Candle is extinguished*

**Reading 3 – The Crowds’ words** (*Mark 15:25-32*)

It was about nine o’clock in the morning when they nailed him to the cross. On it was a sign that told why he was nailed there. It read, “This is the King of the Jews.” The soldiers also nailed two criminals on crosses, one to the right of Jesus and the other to his left.

People who passed by said terrible things about Jesus. They shook their heads and shouted, “Ha! So you’re the one who claimed you could tear down the temple and build it again in three days. Save yourself and come down from the cross!”

The chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses also made fun of Jesus. They said to each other, “He saved others, but he can’t save himself. If he is the Messiah, the king of Israel, let him come down from the cross! Then we will see and believe.” The two criminals also said cruel things to Jesus.

*Candle is extinguished*

**Reading 4 – Mary’s words** (*John 19:25-27*)

Jesus’ mother stood beside his cross with her sister and Mary the wife of Clopas. Mary Magdalene was standing there too. When Jesus saw his mother and his favorite disciple with her, he said to his mother, “This man is now your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “She is now your mother.” From then on, that disciple took her into his own home.

*Candle is extinguished*

**Reading 5 – The thief’s words** (*Luke 23:39-43*)

One of the criminals joined in the cruel talk: You’re supposed to be the Anointed One, right? *Well—do it!* Rescue Yourself and us!

But the other criminal told him to be quiet: Don’t you have any fear of God at all? You’re getting the same death sentence He is! We’re getting what we deserve since we’ve committed crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong at all! Turning to Jesus he said: Jesus, when You come into Your kingdom, please remember me.

Jesus answered: I promise you that this very day you will be with me in paradise.

*Candle is extinguished*

**Reading 6 – The bystander’s words** (*Matthew 27:45-50*)

At noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until three o’clock. Then about that time Jesus shouted, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you deserted me?”

Some of the people standing there heard Jesus and said, “He’s calling for Elijah.” One of them at once ran and grabbed a sponge. He soaked it in wine, then put it on a stick and held it up to Jesus.

Others said, “Wait! Let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” Once again Jesus shouted, and then he died.

*The Christ candle is extinguished*

**Reading 7 – The soldiers’ words** (*Matthew 27:51-56*)

At once the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, and rocks split apart. Graves opened, and many of God’s people were raised to life. Then after Jesus had risen to life, they came out of their graves and went into the holy city, where they were seen by

many people. The officer and the soldiers guarding Jesus felt the earthquake and saw everything else that happened. They were frightened and said, “This man really was God’s Son!” Many women had come with Jesus from Galilee to be of help to him, and they were there, looking on at a distance. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of James and John were some of these women.

*Candle is extinguished*

**Reading 8 – Joseph’s words** (*Matthew 27: 57-61*)

That evening a rich disciple named Joseph from the town of Arimathea went and asked for Jesus’ body. Pilate gave orders for it to be given to Joseph, who took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. Then Joseph put the body in his own tomb that had been cut into solid rock and had never been used. He rolled a big stone against the entrance to the tomb and went away. All this time Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb.

*The last candle is extinguished*

**CLOSING SONG**

*“Were You There”*

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

*In silence and in darkness, a bell is rung thirty-three times for each year of Christ’s life*

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. Don Brown

Rev. Barbara Jo Piercy

Noel A. Piercy

Jaime Maraviglia, Liturgical Movement

Cynthia Welborn, Soloist

Rob Thiemann & Ray Liptak, Technical Assistance