



April 1, 2021
Maundy Thursday

**Meals, Nourishment, Forgiveness, and Celebration
A Service of Scripture and Song**

PRELUDE

Triptych on "Adoro te devote"

Charles Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

He rode, a little in front of us, over palms and cloaks, into Jerusalem. He would not be scared, and we forgot our fears. He nodded at the cheers all the while knowing the fickleness of the crowd. He came in humility while they wanted pride. He came in mercy in the face of all the hatreds and grievances that mixed together in Jerusalem.

Then he went on again, in faith, towards confrontations.

He walked a little in front of us into controversy. He did not act scared though we grew more apprehensive. He argued with the educated, stopped the self-assured in their tracks, touched the diseased, upset bank balances by his outrageous in the temple, and wept over Jerusalem.

Then he went on again into an upper room.

He walked a little in front of us to the table. He would not give in to fear and we put ours aside for the meal. He taught us of service by washing our feet and then spoke of his body and his blood.

He turned the old Passover meal into the feast of the new covenant. Then he would go on in faith to follow his father's will.

HYMN No. 202, St. 1 & 2 *"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.

OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

O God, we come tonight at the invitation of Jesus Christ to share a sacred meal. It is a gracious host indeed who shares not only the bread and cup but also, selflessly, life and being. As we come to the table, we notice a betrayer, a denier, a doubter, two concerned with status, and a group that will be frightened into silence. Yet all find welcome. As we share this sacramental meal with you, with one another and with people of faith throughout the earth and across the ages, help us understand

that this meal provides us with a foretaste of your eternal reign. Whet our appetites for service and nourish us with your presence. In the name of our host, Jesus the Lord. Amen.

**A Meal of the Forgiven:
The Feast of Joseph and His Brothers**

Genesis 43:15-34

SCRIPTURE

REFLECTION

HYMN No. 506, St. 1 & 4

“Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table!”

COPELAND

Look who gathers at Christ’s table!
Hear the stories that they bring.
Some are weeping; some are laughing;
Some have songs they want to sing.
Others ask why they’re invited,
Burdened by the wrong they’ve done.
Christ insists they all are welcome,
There is room for everyone.

Bring your joy and bring your sadness,
And prepare to be surprised
By the host whose hands are wounded,
Who will open wide your eyes
When he blesses, bread and breaks it –
Truth and manna from above!
– and then passes wine and wakens
In your heart the taste of love.

Passover, a Meal for Remembrance

Exodus 12:1-20

SCRIPTURE

REFLECTION

THE PASSOVER STORY – THE QUESTIONS

Why do we eat unleavened bread tonight?

We eat unleavened bread to remember that when our ancestors left Egypt they could not wait for the breads to rise so they took with them a flat bread called matzoh.

Why do we eat bitter herbs on Passover night?

We eat bitter herbs to remind us of how bitter life is for people caught in slavery.

How is this meal different from all other meals?

Tonight we celebrate freedom. We are grateful for God’s mighty acts: splitting the Red Sea for us, sustaining us in the wilderness, giving us the Ten Commandments, and bringing us to Israel.

HYMN No. 509, St. 1 & 2

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

HOLY MANNA

All who hunger, gather gladly;
Holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,

All around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers,
Seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
In communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

The Feast on the Mountain

Isaiah 25:6-9

SCRIPTURE

REFLECTION

SPECIAL MUSIC

"When Jesus Wept"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

The Triumphant Wedding Feast

Revelation 19:1-10

SCRIPTURE

REFLECTION

HYMN No. 227

"Jesus, Remember Me"

TAIZÉ CHANT

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus Eating with Tax Collectors and Sinners

Luke 5:27-35

SCRIPTURE

REFLECTION

SPECIAL MUSIC

"How Beautiful"

Twila Paris

The Last Supper

Matthew 26:17-19

SCRIPTURE

REFLECTION

The Sacrament of Communion

INVITATION

This is the table of the Lord. He invites all who love him and trust in him for their salvation to sit with him and share in this feast. Come now, all who thirst, and drink the water of life. Come now, all who hunger, and be filled with good things.

Why do we come to this table?

We come to this table because of Jesus' command and invitation. In remembrance of him, Jesus tells us to eat this broken bread and drink this cup in true faith and trust that he will come again.

How is this meal different from all others?

In this supper, God tells us that through Christ, our sins have been forgiven, death has

passed us over. All are welcome to share this foretaste of the fullness of the Kingdom and the assurance of the victory of Christ.

How did this meal begin?

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:26-29

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.

SHARING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*In Unison*)

Almighty God, we thank you for your mighty acts of deliverance, when you enable us to cross over from despair to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from death to life. As we have been fed at this table, may we feed the hungry. As we have been set free, may we set free the imprisoned. As we have received, give. As we have heard, proclaim. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

HYMN No. 202, St. 3 & 4 “*An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*”

O WALY WALY

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
Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

LEAVING THE TABLE

He will walk a little in front of us into Gethsemane. He would not be scared though we were apprehensive. He will sweat blood, asking if there is another way. Then he will go on again toward the cross.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“*Were You There*”

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Rev. Barbara Piercy
Noel Piercy
Donna McGinley, Reader
Paul Salierno, Cantor & Cynthia Welborn, Soloist
Chancel Choir, Westminster & Pilgrim Choirs
Youth Handbell Choir
Jesse Gerbasi, Drums & John Lenis, Bass
Ray Liptak, AV Engineer

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