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“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.”

*April 9, 2020*

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# GATHERING

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Tonight we begin the Great Three Days of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection, the journey from the supper table to the cross, from the cross to Easter dawn. We are followers in our Lord's way, exploring his truth, encountering his life, and experiencing his hope.

**C: This is the night when Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would betray him.**

P: This is the night when Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

**C: This is the night when Christ our Lord gave us this holy feast, that as we break the bread and drink the cup we may here proclaim his holy sacrifice, and come at the last to his table in heaven.**

P: This is the night when Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, showing us how to honor and serve one another in love.

**C: This is the night for watching and prayer.**

P: We give ourselves freely to the demands of these great days,

**C: confident that those who die in Christ will surely live with him.**

## \* GATHERING HYMN "JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS" #335



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

## \* **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil — all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the observance of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

P: O Loving God,

**C: There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from You.**

**We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,**

**For fear of appearing weak,**

**For fear of admitting our part in the separation,**

**For fear of being rejected when we reach out.**

**You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,**

**To a wholeness with each other and with You.**

**Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations**

**Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

## **GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service.

Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

### **FIRST READING — EXODUS 12:1-4, 11-14**

*Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's Supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the deities of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 116**

<sup>1</sup> I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;

**he heard my cry for mercy.**

<sup>2</sup> Because he turned his ear to me,

**I will call on him as long as I live.**

<sup>3</sup> The cords of death entangled me,

the anguish of the grave came over me;

**I was overcome by distress and sorrow.**

<sup>4</sup> Then I called on the name of the Lord:

**“Lord, save me!”**

- <sup>5</sup> The Lord is gracious and righteous;  
**our God is full of compassion.**
- <sup>6</sup> The Lord protects the unwary;  
**when I was brought low, he saved me.**
- <sup>7</sup> Return to your rest, my soul,  
**for the Lord has been good to you.**
- <sup>8</sup> For you, Lord, have delivered me from death,  
**my eyes from tears,  
my feet from stumbling,**
- <sup>9</sup> that I may walk before the Lord  
**in the land of the living.**
- <sup>10</sup> I trusted in the Lord when I said,  
**“I am greatly afflicted”;**
- <sup>11</sup> in my alarm I said,  
**“Everyone is a liar.”**
- <sup>12</sup> What shall I return to the Lord  
**for all his goodness to me?**
- <sup>13</sup> I will lift up the cup of salvation  
**and call on the name of the Lord.**
- <sup>14</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
**in the presence of all his people.**
- <sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the Lord  
**is the death of his faithful servants.**
- <sup>16</sup> Truly I am your servant, Lord;  
I serve you just as my mother did;  
**you have freed me from my chains.**
- <sup>17</sup> I will sacrifice a thank offering to you  
**and call on the name of the Lord.**
- <sup>18</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
**in the presence of all his people,**
- <sup>19</sup> in the courts of the house of the Lord—  
**in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

## **SECOND READING — 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26**

*In the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another, because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.*

23For 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, 24and

when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25In 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." 26For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "ABIDE WITH ME"**

**#629 V. 1**

1. Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 13:1-17, 31B-35**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.*

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

12After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? 13You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

31b“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Judeans 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. 35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**\* GOSPEL RESPONSE    “ABIDE WITH ME”**

**#629 V. 2**

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

**SERMON**

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER" #471



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

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## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### \* GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

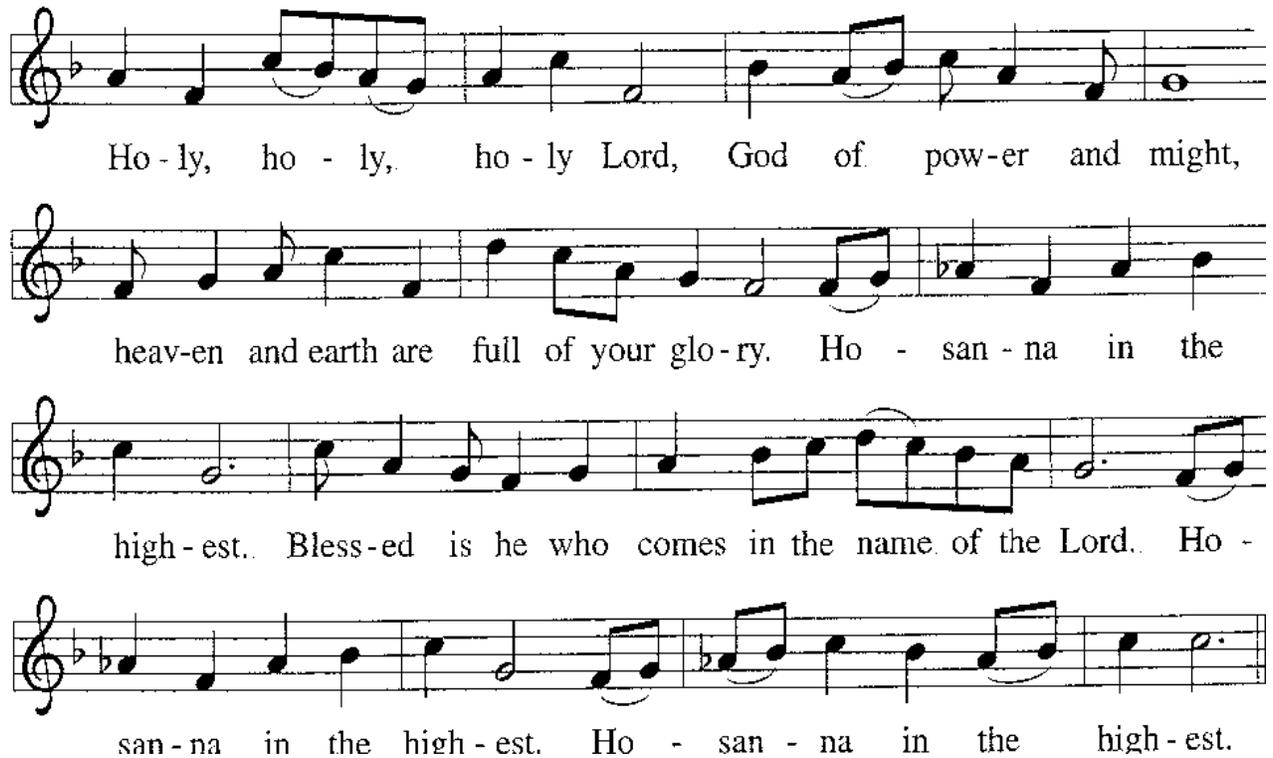
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so with all of the choirs of angels, the church on earth, and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\* **SANCTUS**

**"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**P:** Blessed are you, O living God, sovereign of time and space. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Your word leads us across the sea to freedom, and you have carried us to this festival season of the Three Days.

Blessed be God forever!

**C: Blessed be God forever!**

Blessed are you, O living God, for your glory revealed in Jesus Christ. He is our Servant, who washes our feet with love. He is our Lamb, whose blood takes away our sin. He is our Host at this meal, offering us the cup of salvation.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying; Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Blessed be God forever!

**C: Blessed be God forever!**

Blessed are you, O living God, for the gift of your loving Spirit. Fill this meal with the life of your Son. Make us servants of one another and of everyone in need. Bring us with all of your people to the joy of the resurrection. Blessed be God forever! **C: Blessed be God forever!**

Amen and amen. **C: Amen and amen.**

**\* LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR: *PSALM 22***

*ALL DEPART IN SILENCE*

Please join us for the rest of the story:

✝ Good Friday Service: April 10. Check website or Facebook

✝ Easter Sunday Services: April 12 at 9 am via Zoom

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