

READER COPY

Maundy Thursday / Good Friday

7:00 PM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 28, 2024

** Please stand if you are able.*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Ich Ruf Zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ,* Tim Topolski
BWV 639 by JS Bach (2-25)

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT: Chancel Choir

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:** Deb Albrecht

L: On the night of our Lord's arrest, Jesus gathered his disciples in the Upper Room. He gave them a new commandment: Jesus said *"love one another just as I have loved you. You must love one another as I have loved. It is by your love for one that everyone will recognize you as Christ followers"* (John 13: 34–35).

P: On this night, Jesus, the Lamb of God, surrendered himself into the hands of those who would betray him and slay him. Before his arrest and trial, Jesus took a towel and washed his disciples' feet. He gave us a living example that we should do to others as he has done for us.

L: On this night, Jesus gave his disciples and us this holy feast that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may proclaim his holy sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection. We remember tonight the fullness of Christ's mysterious and miraculous love for us.

P: With prayer and praise, let us worship God.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE:** *No. 85 What Wondrous Love Is This vv. 1 & 2*

***What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *In silence then unison*

Lord Jesus, like Judas, we have betrayed you; like Peter, we have denied you; like the other disciples, we have deserted you. Nevertheless, you remain faithful to us unto death, even death on the cross. In your mercy, forgive our sin; grant us grace to live life with your humility and hospitality; awaken within us the joy of your precious salvation; in your holy and precious name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Hear the Good News: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy who forgives our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

P: Amen.

* **CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:** *No. 647 GTG*

***Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the holy one,
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
And now, let the weak say "we are strong,"
let the poor say "we are rich because
of what the Lord has done for us." Give thanks.***

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

GOSPEL READING: John 15: 9–17

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 23: 20–43

²⁰Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, ²¹but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" ²²A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." ²³But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸ But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[³⁴ Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

ANTHEMS: *Come to the Table* by Mark Hayes Chancel Choir
 Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone? by Joseph Martin

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

* COMMUNION HYMN: No. 516

vv. 1 & 3

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

Lord, we have come at your own invitation, chosen by you, to be counted as friends: yours is the strength that sustains our vocation, ours a commitment we know never ends.

When, at your table, each time of returning, vows are renewed, and our courage restored: may we increasingly glory in learning all that it means to accept you as Lord.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

Elder Deb Albrecht

This not a Presbyterian table. This is the Lord's Table, and Jesus is the host. Our Savior invites all who are truly sorry for their sins and would humbly put their trust in him to come to the feast which he has prepared. Listen to the gracious words of our Savior Jesus Christ:

This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.

John 6: 40

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open the door, I will come in to them and eat with them, and they with me.

Revelation 3: 20

L: Why have we gathered here?

P: We come because we have been called to live out a story.

L: What story shall we live?

P: The story of God's saving love, revealed in Jesus.

L: Where did this story begin?

P: It was whispered before time began. It was sung in the melody of Creation.

L: Whose story is this?

P: This story is God's alone to tell. It hums in the rivers and the trees. It whispers in the skies and the seas. It calls to the people of all places. It speaks in our hearts and in our lives.

L: Why then should we speak of this story?

P: This story calls our name in Creation and claims our lives through the Cross and the empty tomb, of our redemption. We are it's telling in this time, this space, and this place.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, OF THE PEOPLE

& THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Melanie Williams

L: With storytellers of all ages and in all situations, we offer ourselves to the Lord. Let us pray:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God almighty . . . as we pray the prayer Jesus taught, *singing*:

P: "Our Father, who art . . . forever. Amen."

L: Tell me the story of this night, of this table?

P: The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it.

L: Tell me what he said and did?

P: He said, "This is my body, given and broken for you. Do this in remembrance me."

L: Tell me what he said and did?

P: In the same way, he took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

L: This is our common story, our deep memory, our true destiny. Let it be our story-telling, our testimony.

P: We celebrate God's grace that has shaped and shapes our lives.

L: The feast of God for the people of God, let us eat and drink.

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS: *Approach the Table, take the bread, take the cup, and return to your pew.*

SHARING THE BREAD: Jesus said, *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* (Jn. 6:37) As we eat this bread in remembrance of Christ, may the spirit that is in him be in us also.

DRINKING THE CUP: Jesus said, *“I am the vine, you are the branches, apart from him, we can do nothing.”* Let us drink this cup in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit in which he died be our Spirit.

COMMUNION BLESSING:

Elder Deb Albrecht

L: What is our prayer this day?

P: Ever-gracious and life-giving God, on this holy evening when we have remembered the Last Supper of the Lord Jesus, when his body was broken for us and his blood poured out for us, accept us in spite of our unworthiness. Fill us with mutual love for you and for one another that we may live into Jesus’ words and strive to love one another as he loved us. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

HYMN: No. 93

Ah, Holy Jesus

v. 1

***Ah, holy Jesus, how have You offended,
That mortal judgment has on You descended?
By foes derided, by Your own rejected, O most afflicted!***

GOSPEL: Luke 23: 44–48 & John 19: 38–42 — The death of God.

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun’s light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly this man was innocent.” ⁴⁸And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts.

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of

myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

SOLO: *Were You There?* Willow Kessler

THE STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH & THE SEALING OF THE SEPULCHER

Leave the sanctuary in silence.



ASSISTING DURING THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Bill Olivier

Worship Leader: Deb Albrecht

Church Intern: Melanie Williams

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Usher: Joanna Leontaris

Organist: Tim Topolski

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Soloist: Willow Kessler



JOIN US ON EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024:

Blair Lake at 7:00 AM (weather permitting)

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary at 10:00 AM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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