

Maundy Thursday Service

WELCOME AND INVITATION

Priest: Welcome to this service of remembering and reliving the last night Jesus spent with his friends. Tonight, we will be together with each other, as Jesus was with the disciples on their last night. (Or whatever you want to say)

COLLECT

Priest: Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All: **We remember friends at table**
We remember water splashing over dusty feet
We remember bread and wine
We remember betrayal and fear
We remember our hope which is in Christ

SCENE 1: THE PREPARATION OF THE PASSOVER - LUKE 22:7-13

Narrator: Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.

Jesus: Peter and John, go and prepare the Passover meal for us so we may eat it

Peter & John: "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?"

Jesus: Listen, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, "The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there."

Narrator: So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

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SCENE 2: **THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** - LUKE 22:14-23

Priest: When the hour came, he took his place at the table with his friends. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." He took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

Holy and gracious God, send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness. **AMEN.**

Priest: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Priest: The gifts of God for the people of God.

(The consecrated bread and wine are distributed.)

Hymn: (Perhaps something we often sing at Eucharist, which is simple)

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SCENE 3: **JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET** - JOHN 13:1-14

Narrator: Now 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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and

was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

Peter: "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Peter "You will never wash my feet."

Jesus "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

Peter "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus "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."

Narrator: For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table,

Jesus: "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So 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.

(The person playing Jesus can first wash Peter's feet, then give bowl to priest - who then invites those who want to have their feet washed to come forward. After everyone who wishes has had their feet washed, water bowls and towels are set aside.)

Hymn: S 344 (or one of the others? *chanted by choir during footwashing*)

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SCENE 4: JESUS FORETELLS HIS BETRAYAL - JOHN 13:21-30

Jesus: "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me."

Narrator: The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.

Peter: Who is he talking about?

John: “Lord, who is it?”

Jesus “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.”

Narrator: So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. (*Jesus tears a piece of bread, dips it in bowl and hands it to Judas*) After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him.

Jesus “Do quickly what you are going to do.”

Narrator: Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival”; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

(One candle is blown out by Judas, who then gets up and leaves table.)

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SCENE 5: THE NEW COMMANDMENT - JOHN 13:33-35, 14:25-27

Narrator: When he had gone out, Jesus said,

Jesus: Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the

Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Hymn: 791 (WLP) *Peace before us*

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(all those seated around the table stand up and move to doorway for this scene)

SCENE 6: **JESUS FORETELLS PETER'S DENIAL** MARK 14:26-31

Narrator: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus: “You will all become deserters; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

Peter “Even though all become deserters, I will not.”

Jesus “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

Peter: “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.”

Disciples: Yes, we would die before we would deny you.

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(everyone now moves into the sanctuary. Jesus and disciples stand at front for this scene)

SCENE 7: **JESUS PRAYS IN GETHSEMANE** - MARK 14:32-42

Narrator: They went to a place called Gethsemane.

Jesus: “Sit here while I pray.”

Narrator: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated.

Jesus: “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.”

Narrator: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

Jesus: “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.”

Narrator: He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus: “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Narrator: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

Jesus: “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

Psalm 22 is chanted by the Choir during stripping of the altar. Then crucifer leads priest carrying reserve sacrament to the garden set up in the back of the church.

Hymn: *Humbly I adore thee*

Hymn 314, verses 1-3

Hymn: *Were You There*

(All are welcome to pray by the Garden of Repose or to depart in silence.)