

Faith United Methodist Church

April 9, 2020



Maundy Thursday

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

**Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

† Jesu, Jesu

Refrain: *Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

*Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washing their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. **Refrain***

*Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we are slaves,
this is the way we should live with you. **Refrain***

*Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you. **Refrain***

Opening Prayer: Anointed One, on the night before he suffered and died he gathered with friends and humbled himself in service. Grant that we may be inspired to serve others in this time, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Exodus 16:2-21

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.’ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, ‘In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?’ And Moses said, ‘When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.’

Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.” ’ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, “At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.” ’

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: “Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.” ’ The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed. And Moses said to them, ‘Let no one leave any of it over until morning.’ But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul. And Moses was angry with them. Morning by morning they gathered it, as much as each needed; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

John 6:26-35

Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Gospel Response: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

Prayer of Illumination: O Lord, **open our hearts and lives to your word so that we may be transformed into faithful disciples. Amen.**



Response to the Word: Brothers & Sisters – it is usual on Maundy Thursday that we humble ourselves for footwashing. In this time where we are gathered in separately in homes throughout Southeast Texas, we remember that on the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he knelt and washed the disciples feet. Afterwards, he gave us the new commandment, “just as I have loved you, you also should love one another” (John 13:34). We are showing that to each other by maintaining physical distance and thorough handwashing. I invite you to find some lotion and as you massage it into your tired hands remember the depth of God’s love for us, that he sent his son, Jesus into the world to show us a different way of love, one that is rooted in servanthood.

“May this balm soothe your dry hands and revive you as you continue to serve.”

The Stripping of the Altar

The ancient practice of stripping the Lord’s table and sanctuary following communion is a vivid and dramatic way of showing the desolation and abandonment of the long night in Gethesmane and what followed. Traditionally we would remove all of the altar cloths, candles, cross, Bible, offering plates and look at an empty altar covered in black cloth. As we are not together to do this ancient practice, what can you strip away or let go in your physical space as well as your heart until Sunday as you prepare for resurrection?

Benediction Go in peace. May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you this night and forever.
Amen.

Attributes

Hymns: “Jesu, Jesu” words by Tom Colvin, music Ghana folk song; adapt. By Tom Colvin, 1969. Harmony by Charles H Webb, 1988. “Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom” Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taizé Tune: Jaques Berthier, © 1981, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text **Liturgy:** Psalm 116:1-2 Call to Worship – New Revised Standard Version used by permission. Scripture are from New Revised Standard Version used by permission. Benediction from United Methodist Book of Worship © 1983 the United Methodist Publishing House used with permission, CCLI License #3821436 used by permission One License A-733754