

Maundy Thursday

April 17, 2025

7:00pm

Prelude and Chimes

WE GATHER AT THE TABLE

Words from Scripture: Luke 22:7-13

***Hymn #346:** "Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken"

Invitation to Confession

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us to return to that love. Now as Lent draws to a close and we gather at Christ's Table, I invite you to commit to loving your neighbor by confessing your sin and asking God for strength to persevere.

Prayer of Confession

Ever gracious God, we gather this evening hour as friends gathered with Jesus in an upper room long ago. We come bearing the marks of a bitter and broken world. We come from anonymous places, with dry and thirsty spirits. Remind us in the breaking of the bread of our need and of your sufficiency. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness. Draw us near to each other in mutual service and closer to you in the covenant of faithfulness and thanksgiving. As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love in Jesus, our friend and redeemer. Amen.

Words of Grace

God's love is not destroyed at Golgotha, nor diminished by our unclear reflection of its saving power. God reaches out to heal and revive us, and to reveal again the love that will not let us go. We are invited to know the One beyond all knowing and to accept the gifts God offers us. Answer God's love with your praise, devotion, and service – and you will know you are forgiven.

Meditation

***Hymn 330:** "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

This table is open for all. Wherever you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here.

Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may.

Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance.

Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit.

Come to this table, then, sisters and brothers, as you are.

Partake and share.

It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing as distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made.... Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we hear the words of your peoples everywhere:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Consecration and Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

WE REMEMBER CHRIST'S PASSION

(Hymns are attached at the end of the bulletin for your convenience)

Hymn #225: (verses 1 and 2) "It was a Sad and Solemn Night"

Scripture #1 – Luke 22:1-6 (Plot to kill Jesus)

Scripture #2 – Luke 22:31-34 (Jesus predicts Peter will betray him)

Hymn #517: (Verses 1 and 2) "I Need You Every Hour"

Scripture #3 – Luke 22:39-53 (Jesus prays at Mount of Olives, betrayal and arrest)

Scripture #4 – Luke 22:54-62 (Peter Betrays Jesus)

Hymn #218: (Verses 1 and 2) "Ah, Holy Jesus"

Scripture #5 – Luke 22:63-71 (Jesus is mocked and beaten, Jesus appears before Council)

Hymn #226: (Verses 1 and 2) "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Scripture #6 – Luke 23:1-12 (Jesus appears before Pilate and Herod)

Hymn #195: (Verse 1) "The Old Rugged Cross"

Scripture #7 – Luke 23:13-25 (Jesus sentenced to death)

Hymn #224: (Verses 1, 2, 3) "When I survey the Wondrous Cross"

Scripture #8 – Luke 23:26-31 (Crucifixion)

Scripture #9 – Luke 23:32-43 (Crucifixion)

Scripture #10 – Luke 23:44-49 (Death of Jesus)

Music: "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" Keith Johnson

There is no benediction this night. Please leave the sanctuary when you are ready in silence, then return Easter morning to celebrate the Resurrection.

Crucifixion 2025

The table set, the feast is ready
Fed and nourished, plates are cleared
Streaming favorite entertainment commences
Life enclosed in comfort bubble

All will be well that would be well.

Sidewalks walkways to hope or terror
Suddenly stopped, hands twisted together
Public speech the condemnation
Disappeared to silence

All will be well that would conform

Such a deal
Money buys what monied want
Transactional life, transactional living
How much for betrayal?

All will be well if price is paid

Tattooed bodies torn from homes
Cursed by names and associations
Stripped naked, beaten, shackled, shorn
White T-shirts and shorts in cages, silenced

All will be well when troublemakers punished

Trial denied, there are no rights
Existence being evidence enough
You are not us is verdict's decree
Convicted: Death

All will be well when "they" are gone

Are you still crucifying our Lord?
Are you there to hear the cries of suffering ?
Are you there when we are disappeared or erased?
Are you there when they crucify our Lord?

All will not be well until we see the crossbeams of the cross carried in front of us.