



# MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 9, 2020

Our Lenten observance comes to an end today, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. As Jesus washed his disciple's feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. What does radical love look like in this time of a global pandemic?

As we gather our hearts this day, I invite you to light a candle as a sign of our connectedness in Christ through baptism. This bulletin will be most helpful for you if you would like to participate in the service. **Your portions of the service will be in the bold text.** If you are sheltered-in-place alone, please know that your pastor and your community join you this evening through the living words and promises of God. The Spirit continues to hold us together, even though we have to be physically apart from one another.

*(brief silence)*

Prelude: *There is a Fountain*

## GATHERING

### A Litany for Changing Times

God, things are changing.

**The world is changing.**

We feel uncertain and shaky.

**We feel anxious.**

Questions have arisen that we've never had to deal with before.

**Give us wisdom.**

Shifts in culture and technology have brought problems we've never had to face before.

**Give us discernment.**

We don't know how to move forward.

**We want unity.**

We feel lost.

**We want compassion.**

We know that the Kingdom that Christ began on earth **is progressing.**

The good news **is expanding.**

The momentum of your will being done on earth as it is in heaven **is unstoppable.**

Even as all around us changes,  
**Your love endures forever.**  
Even in war, and climate change, and social media,  
**Your love endures forever.**  
Even in theological and political disagreement,  
**Your love endures forever.**  
Help us to love one another as never before—  
**Better than before**  
Help us to not be defensive or closed-minded,  
**But open to the Kingdom coming in unexpected ways. Amen.**

### Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always. **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

*(Please read the psalm responsively)*

### Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,  
**for the Lord has given ear to me  
whenever called.**

How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the good things God has | done for me?  
**I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord.**

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people.

**Precious in your sight, O Lord,  
is the death of your servants.**

O Lord, truly I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.**

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people,  
**in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

# Hymn

## ELW # 343 "My Song is Love Unknown"



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -  
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es  
4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might  
stow; the world that was his own would not its  
sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas  
way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that  
Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my  
to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is  
life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!  
all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.  
suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

### Verse 5:

In life no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

### Verse 6:

Here might I stay and sing -  
no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend!

## Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>12</sup>After 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? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

<sup>31b</sup>"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>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.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

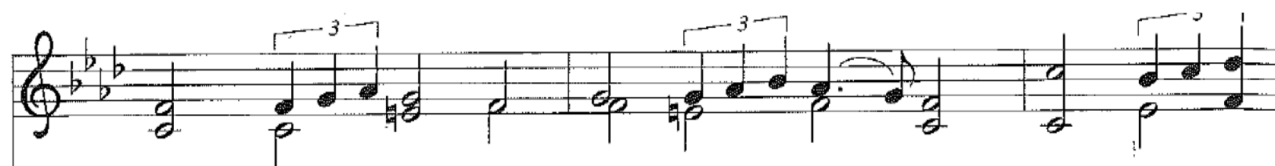
This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**A Homily** on Acts of Love and Service by Rev. Rebekah Swanson

Hymn

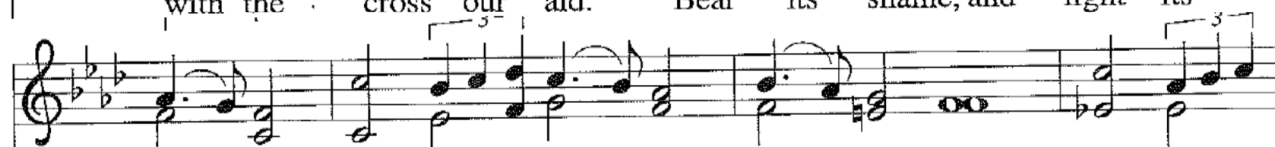
ELW # 327 "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward  
 2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the  
 3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as  
 4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



|| goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -  
 ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and  
 from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the  
 with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



||| ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -  
 ter - ror, bright - ning all the path we tread. One the  
 per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the  
 bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



||| fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the  
 ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which  
 glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -  
 come the great a - wak - ning; soon the rend - ing



✓ guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of  
 nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing  
 ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y  
 of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



✓† pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.  
 for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.  
 Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.  
 shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

## Prayers of Intercession

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Each petition will end with: Hear us, O God. You are invited to respond: **Your mercy is great.**

*A brief silence.*

God of love, unite your church in its commitment to humble service. Make us your faithful disciples. Speak words of truth and grace through us. Encourage us in self-giving acts of kindness. Let us love one another as you have loved us. Guide us in new and innovative ways to be your love in the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, we see that your creation is healing itself in this time of a global pandemic. Help us to be better stewards of this world, help us to know that this precious gift is fragile, but with proper care it can flourish. Continue to guide the hands of those who provide nourishment—those who cultivate, farm, and garden. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you give us a new commandment, to have love for one another. Keeping this at the center of all we do, and with the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayers Cycle, let us join voices all over the world in praying for the following countries and territories this week: for Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for situations in our world, nation, and community, naming them aloud now or in our hearts...

We pray for people who are in need of prayer, are sick, suffering, or mourning, naming them aloud now or in our hearts...

*We pray for healthcare providers, for those who are sick, and for the families of those who have died from the COVID-19 virus.*

We remember those who have passed away, naming them aloud now or in our hearts...

Into your hands, O Lord we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the Lord's Prayer in the version that is closest to your heart...

**Our Mother, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Dear siblings in Christ, on this night we do not say goodbye, we say until next time. We do not say goodnight, we say blessing. There are blessings to be found in this liminal space between Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. There are blessings to be lived into in this physical space between us... we may not have words for it just yet... and that's okay.

Postlude: *Near the Cross*



artwork by Dan Erlander on the print

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