

Ante Communion Maundy Thursday -- April 1, 2021

Hymn

What Wondrous Love is This

Orchard

*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 dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?*

*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 send this precious peace to my soul, to my soul,
To send this precious peace to my soul?*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, and whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

God of mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

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

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 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.**

First Reading Exodus 12:1–14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in

proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

Dilexi, quoniam

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *

because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

How shall I repay the Lord *

for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation *

and call upon the Name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *

in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord *

is the death of his servants.

O Lord, I am your servant; *

I am your servant and 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 his people,

In the courts of the Lord's house, *

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and every shall be. World without end. Amen.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 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." 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, he said to them, "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. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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. ⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ**Sermon****Hymn****Ah, Holy Jesus***Wash Nat'l Cathedral*

*Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.*

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee: I crucified thee.*

*Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded, God interceded.*

*For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation, thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.*

*Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee, I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.*

Prayers of Intercession

United with Christians around the globe on this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the church, the earth, our troubled world, and all in need, responding to each petition with the words, "Your mercy is great."

Blessed are you, holy God, for the church. Gather us around your presence in the Word. Strengthen the body of your people even when we cannot assemble for worship. Hear us, holy God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, bountiful God, for this good earth and for the flowering of springtime. Save dry lands from destructive droughts. Protect the waters from pollution. Make us into care-givers of your creation. Hear us, bountiful God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, sovereign God, for our nation. Inspire all people to live in peace and concord. Grant wisdom and courage to our leaders as they face this troubled time. Hear us, sovereign God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, faithful God, for you accompany suffering humanity with love. Abide wherever healing is needed. Visit all who mourn their dead; support physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organization.

Hear us, faithful God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, gracious God, for you care for the needy. We beg you to help us to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. Hear us, gracious God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, loving God, that your Son knelt before us, your unworthy servants. Preserve our lives, comfort our anxiety, and receive now the petitions of our hearts. Hear us, loving God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, eternal God, for your loving presence with all who have died, and those whom we name before you here. [...] At the end, bring us with them into your everlasting glory. Hear us, eternal God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive, merciful God, our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who died and rose that we might live with you, now and forever.

Amen.

Finally, remembering Jesus going to his arrest and his death, the events from which all the mercy that fills this night flows, we pray this Psalm.

Psalm 88

¹O Lord, my God, my Savior,

by day and night I cry to you.

²Let my prayer enter into your presence;

incline your ear to my lamentation.

³For I am full of trouble;

my life is at the brink of the grave.

⁴I am counted among those who go down to the pit;

I have become like one who has no strength;

⁵lost among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave,

whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.

⁶You have laid me in the depths of the pit,

in dark places, and in the abyss.

⁷Your anger weighs upon me heavily,

and all your great waves overwhelm me.

⁸You have put my friends far from me; you have made me to be abhorred by them;

I am in prison and cannot get free.

⁹My sight has failed me because of trouble;

Lord, I have called upon you daily; I have stretched out my hands to you.

¹⁰Do you work wonders for the dead?

Will those who have died stand up and give you thanks?

¹¹Will your lovingkindness be declared in the grave,

your faithfulness in the land of destruction?

¹²Will your wonders be known in the dark

or your righteousness in the country where all is forgotten?

¹³But as for me, O Lord, I cry to you for help;

in the morning my prayer comes before you.

¹⁴ Lord, why have you rejected me?

Why have you hidden your face from me?

¹⁵Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the point of death;

I have borne your terrors and am helpless.

¹⁶Your blazing anger has swept over me;

your terrors have destroyed me;

¹⁷they surround me all day long like a flood;

they encompass me on every side.

¹⁸My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me,

and darkness is my only companion.

Hymn

Ave Verum Corpus

Concordia

*Ave, verum corpus
natum de Maria Virgine,
Vere passum immolatum
in Cruce pro homine,
Cujus latus perforatum
unda fluxit (et) sanguine,
Esto nobis praegustatum
in mortis examine.*

*Hail, true body
born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed
on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed
with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste
In the test of death.*