

GATHERING

PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMN

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

ELW 358

1) Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

2) We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.

4) Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

5) Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

INVOCATION

ONE: We are gathered today by the call of the Holy Spirit, in the Name of the Triune God + to worship and to remember.

MANY: AMEN

GATHERING LITANY

John 13:34-35

ONE: On this day - throughout our existence - the body of Christ has gathered to share the Holy Meal Christ has given us. In this supper, God's unfailing, self-giving love is poured out for the whole human family.

MANY: God's desire for our unity is made manifest around this table.

ONE: In this supper we are filled with - and renewed as - the Body of Christ;

MANY: from this supper we are sent out to serve our neighbors - those like and unlike ourselves - with the compassion, welcome and love of Christ.

ONE: For Jesus said: "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."

MANY: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

ONE: This is Christ's command, the mandate which gives Maundy Thursday, its name. It is this command that compels all our action, the command which directs our existence. It is this command - to love one another - that ushers us into these Three Days.

MANY: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

ONE: With this command, let us begin our observance of these Three Most Holy Days by confessing our sin, our inability to live in love.

Silence for reflection.

ONE: Most merciful God,

MANY: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. AMEN

ONE: 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. Come to the font to remember your baptism that you are washed in the waters of God's love and acceptance.

MANY: AMEN

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

The congregation is invited to the font to receive the sign of the cross on their foreheads.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ONE: The Lord be with you.

MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Let us pray. Holy God,

When facing death, Jesus thought of his mother, Mary, and commended her to the disciple whom he loved.

MANY: Inspire us by this act of care within the community, so we can live with one another in holy love. AMEN

WORD

PREACHING TEXT

John 13:13-35

You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16 Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. 18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, 'The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' 19 I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. 20 Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." 22 The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. 23 One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; 24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. 25 So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. 27 After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." 28 Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. 29 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. 30 So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 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.' 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just

as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

ONE: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

MANY: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Paul Lutter

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Wondrous Love is This

ELW 666

1) 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?

2) When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

3) To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

4) And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ONE: Our gracious God calls us to grow in empathy, to embrace the diversity of the world, and to love one another.

MANY: Christ has set us free for love of God, love of our neighbors, and love of the world.

ONE: To that end, we come before God with prayers on behalf of the world, the whole creation, Christ's church, and all who are in need.

Let us pray.

ONE: O Lord Jesus, fill us with your love. Washed in the waters of baptism, fed and nourished by your meal of love, set us free in love as we care for your whole creation.

MANY: May we become agents of reconciliation, hope, healing, sustenance and renewal. May your love encourage and sustain us in this work.

ONE: Christ, we are heartened by the way you wept at the news of Lazarus's death. We are renewed by the way your tears broke loose in resurrection for him – and for us.

MANY: Give us courage, O God of grace, to allow our grief and sorrow to be revealed. Set loose your love in such a way that we know your comfort and consolation in all that we face.

ONE: You gather us around a table and nourish us, all so that you may unite us. On this Maundy Thursday, help us to consider your love as we live out our love toward you and the world you so love.

MANY: Nourish and unite us and all your church through this meal of love. We pray for strength to live out your love in relationships that prove difficult, and in situations in which we don't know what to do. Let your love guide us, support us, and challenge us, O Lord.

ONE: We pray for the people of Peace Lutheran Church who are in need of your special care....
And we name before you, aloud or in our hearts, others we know in need of your embrace....
The congregation is invited to offer the names aloud or in silence.

ONE: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

MANY: AMEN

SHARING OF THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you always.

MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

ONE: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

MANY: AMEN

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: The Lord be with you.

MANY: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

MANY: We left them to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

MANY: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT US

ONE: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**MANY: 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 win 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**

COMMUNION BLESSING

ONE: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our journey through these three days. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

MANY: AMEN

1) Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

2) Follow to the judgment hall,
view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.

3) Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.

4) Early hasten to the tomb,
where they laid his breathless clay;
all is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Stripping the altar—removing all ornaments and linens—is an ancient Maundy Thursday custom of the Church. It is symbolic of the disciples' abandonment and Jesus' humiliation at the hands of the soldiers. It also reminds us to strip away our own armor - all that would protect us - from the pain, confusion, and groundlessness of the coming betrayal, denial, trial and crucifixion.

PSALM 22

- ¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
- ²My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.
- ³Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them.
- ⁵They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- ⁶But as for me, I am a worm and not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.
- ⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.
- ⁸“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”
- ⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,
and kept me safe on my mother's breast.
- ¹⁰I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.
- ¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.
- ¹²Many young bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

- ¹³They open wide their jaws at me,
like a slashing and roaring lion.
- ¹⁴I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- ¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of death.
- ¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.
- ¹⁷I can count all my bones
while they stare at me and gloat.
- ¹⁸They divide my garments among them;
for my clothing, they cast lots.
- ¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not far away;
O my help, hasten to my aid.
- ²⁰Deliver me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.
- ²¹Save me from the lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.
- ²²I will declare your name to my people;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.
- ²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.
- ²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.
- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
- ²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied.
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- ²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.
- ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.
- ³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.
- ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

We depart in silence.

The worship service continues tomorrow evening.

Acknowledgements:

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Serving today:

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Rev. Paul Lutter

Organist & Pianist

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