



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”



This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ’s last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness:

L: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord’s call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

L: Most merciful God,

C: 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.

L: 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.

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins. (*Can seal each other with sign of cross.*)

C: Amen.

Hymn “Lamb of God”

Red Worship Book 336

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain- O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God. Oh, wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

- 2 Your gift of love we crucified. We laughed and scorned him as he died. The humble king we named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain*
- 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side to be led by your staff and rod and to be called the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

Greeting

Red Worship Book pg. 259

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: 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.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

Wendy Reamer-Johnson

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell 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. ⁴If 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. [⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.] ¹¹This 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. ¹²For 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. ¹³The 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.

¹⁴This 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.

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

Wendy Reamer Johnson

L: ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;

C: God's mercy endures forever.

L: ²Let Israel now declare,

C: "God's mercy endures forever."

L: ¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,

C: and has become my salvation.

L: ¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:

C: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

L: ¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!

C: The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

L: ¹⁷I shall not | die, but live,

C: and declare the works of the LORD.

L: ¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,

C: but did not hand me over to death.

L: ¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness;

C: I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

L: ²⁰“This is the gate of the LORD;

C: here the righteous may enter.”

L: ²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me

C: and you have become my salvation.

L: ²²The stone that the builders rejected

C: has become the chief cornerstone.

L: ²³By the LORD has this been done;

C: it is marvelous in our eyes.

L: ²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Ashley Thompson

²³For 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, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In 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.” ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Gospel Acclamation

Red Worship Book pg. 151

C: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 260

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

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

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

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

^{31b}“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

Sermon

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, O, God, Our maker and our Redeemer, Amen.

On one of the many Youth Works trips I was in with some young adults we were split up to do work. Even as a leader, we did as they told us too. Many times I just loved what we were doing, visiting at nursing home, cleaning up in a church, teaching a street Bible school and it was so rewarding. With dread though a couple of times, I had to turn over sod with my group for a garden, and another time pulling weeds, many weeds out of a ditch. My hands got a big sore as well as the kids that were with me. Was not the most glamorous and furthermore we could not see what our results or progress was. We were not done and well, not a whole lot of “God” moments like many of the other groups had. Pulling weeds just did not cut it, yet.

As Jesus celebrates his third and final Passover with his disciples, he knows his hour has come. He is leaving this world. He has loved everyone until the end, and now is showing them the full extent of his love (John 13: 1). Judas is already primed for what he will do. The evening meal is about to be served and Jesus took off his garment, wrapped a towel around his waist, and began to pour water to a basin to do the most menial task of all for someone. Washing their dirty feet. This was done all the time in Jesus’ time. However, Jesus taking on this task? Unheard of for the Rabbi, Teacher, to wash feet as if a slave or servant to everyone in the circle. Peter argues. He feels Jesus should not be washing feet, which is for the “other” to do.

Jesus is the ultimate example of what being a disciple of him is going to be like. Doing things that are hard or distasteful to do. The most menial of tasks. This evening of the Three Days we hear about Jesus washings of feet, next the breaking and sharing of the bread and wine, and the command to love each other as Christ loves us. Jesus has been teaching and preaching this throughout the Gospel of John, now he is showing his disciples right out in public. To follow Christ we must take on a servant role. A forgiving role. A loving role.

Jesus ate with sinners and priests, with the other and the insiders, because it was natural to do the “othering” in their lives and our lives just as easily as it is now. Hear Christ saying that there is another way. Hear Christ saying it is time to live a life in love and service. Look at my example. This year has been tough and as we hear the news of heartache and violence that God’s people have against one another, Jesus’ words need to be imprinted on our hearts.

Jesus says there is a way people will know you are my disciples, love and service. His last words to his disciples, to us, his inner circle, it is service. It is the “mandate” that you love one another. All the church buildings with many people in the world will mean nothing if you do not have love for one another.

This night before Jesus crucifixion, we remember what his last request from us was. Get your towel, wash feet, remember, be the servant, eat bread and drink wine, in Jesus’ name, and love one another. This is not a new commandment to serve and love, yet it is oh so important. Jesus last sermon to us. Simple, easy, with his help. Just think about what he did for us. He took a towel. Take your towel. Amen.

Hymn

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

Red Worship Book 335

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain; free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain- In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

- 2 Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me; there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*
- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever, till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. *Refrain*

Prayers of Intercession

L: Let us pray for new life in the church, new hope for the world, and God's love for all who are in need.

(A brief silence.)

L: 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. **Prayers of Intercession**

L: Let us pray for new life in the church, new hope for the world, and God's love for all who are in need.

(A brief silence.)

L: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of love, tend to flocks, fields, and vineyards. Bring favorable weather for crops to grow. Guide the hands of those who cultivate, farm, and garden. Let the earth flourish so that all may eat and be satisfied. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of love, you give us a new commandment, to have love for one another. We give thanks for organizations that respond to disasters and for agencies that offer relief and humanitarian aid to populations in need. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of love, give ear to all who call upon you for any need of body or spirit (*especially*). Provide for those who do not have enough to eat, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and those who rely on the generosity of others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of love, you invite us to your table of mercy. Heal all divisions between members of this assembly. Extend the hospitality of this table beyond these walls, that your love and welcome be made known to all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

God of love, glorify your servants who walked by faith in this life and who now feast with you. Inspire us by the sacrifice of those who were imprisoned, persecuted, or martyred for their faith. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 154

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Distribution

Hymn

"Jesus Remember Me" (3 times)

Red Worship Book 616

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Prayer

L: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

L: Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

Psalm 22

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words on my groaning?

My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.

They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people.

All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

"Trust in the Lord; let the Lord deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him."

Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb, and kept me safe on my mother's breast.

I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

They 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.

My 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.

Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.

I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.

They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.

But you, O Lord, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the Lord all you off-spring of Israel.

For 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.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied. Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

Indeed, 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.

Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

All depart in silence.