

Thursday, April 1, 2021 ~ Maundy Thursday



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. We are transformed by the mercy we have received through Christ and we carry it into the world through our service to one another. Worship ends in solemn silence, as we anticipate the coming days.

Prelude on "When Jesus Wept"
William Billings/arr. Robert J. Powell

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

As Jesus shared a meal with his disciples, you are invited to share a meal as you participate in worship tonight. Gather your meal, candles and matches for your table. Instructions will be given throughout the service for times to pause in order to serve your meal, to eat, to pray, and to clean up. Over the last year, we have learned anew that Christ is with us wherever we gather, and by God's love and grace, we are made one with Christ in baptism, across time and space, even in our meal tonight.

Households are invited to gather around their tables before lighting candles. After the liturgy, hymn, and prayer, you'll be invited to eat.

Candle Lighting:

Creating Father, at creation your light dispelled the darkness of chaos,
Allowing order and beauty to flourish.

Redeeming Son, you are the light of the world, dispelling the darkness of sin and death.
Your light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Sanctifying Spirit, your light transforms the darkness of our lives.
Let your light shine upon and within us, that it may shine through us.

We light the candles on our tables.

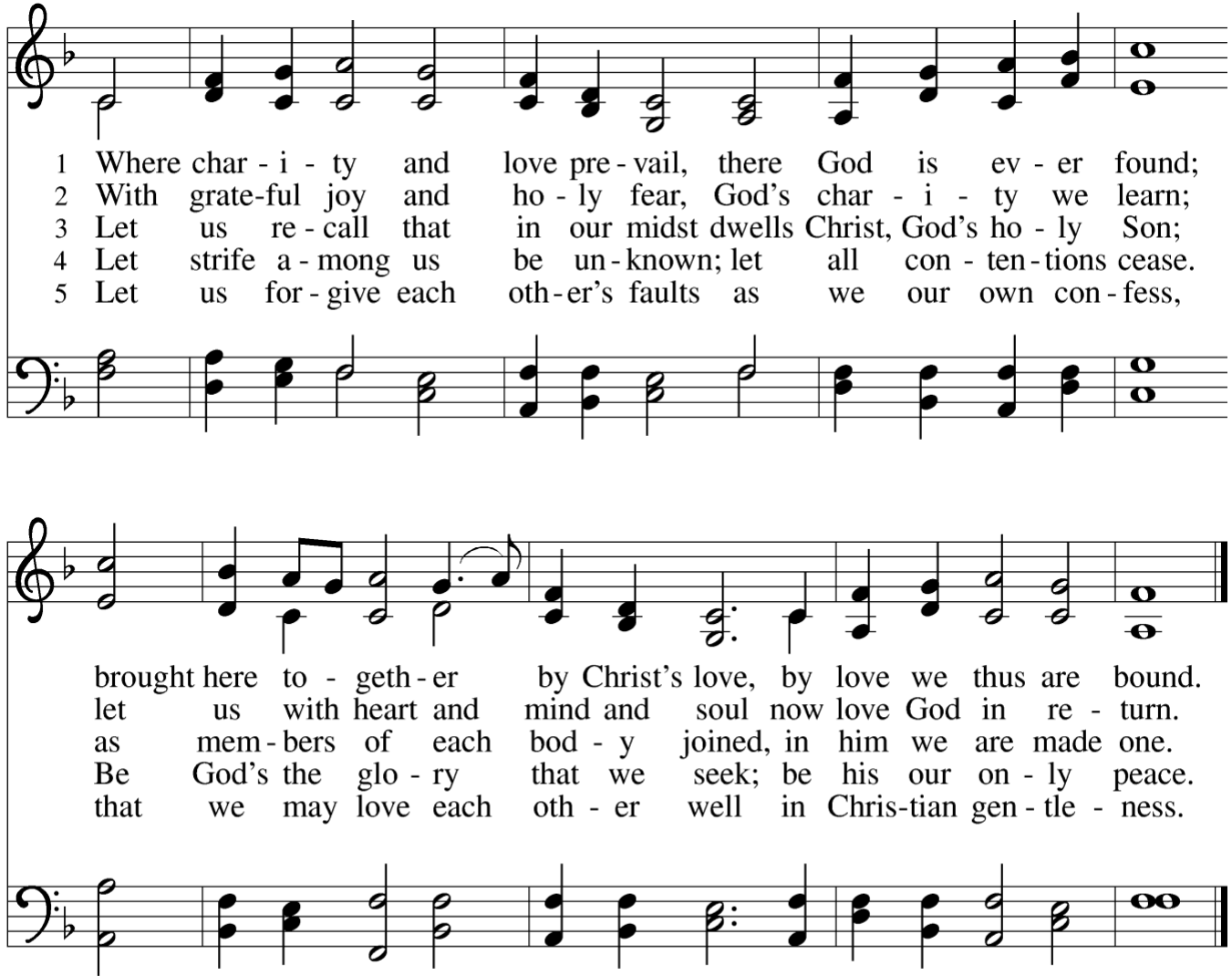
Blessed are you, O Holy Trinity, our God; from the beginning of time you have guided your people by the light of your love. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Christ, for your Word and your presence are the light upon our way through this world, and into your new world we come, where all is light and life.

Amen

Gathering Hymn:

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW #359



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

You are invited to pause worship to serve your meal and settle into place around your table. Resume worship when you are ready. After the gospel, you'll be given your next instructions.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.

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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

You are invited to pause and spend some time reflecting on the story of Jesus' last meal with his friends. Use these or other questions, to guide your reflection:

- *Who is it easy for you to love?*
- *Who is it hard for you to love?*

- As you think about the last year, where have you seen people in our world loving others as Jesus asks?
- How do you show your love for Jesus?
- What new ways have you learned to show love in the last year?

Resume worship when you are ready. After the hymn you'll be given your next instructions.

Hymn of the Day:

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

#708

Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

Refrain



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
 all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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As your meal is finishing up and before clearing your table, pause and take a few moments to offer your prayers as a household. Resume worship when you have completed your prayers. After the Lord's Prayer, you'll be given your next instructions.

Prayers of the People:

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. You are invited to pause to offer the prayers of the people in your home.

- *Name the people you know who serve others in love.*
- *Name the people you know who feel lost or abandoned.*
- *Name the people you know who are easy to love and the ones who are hard to love.*
- *Name the people you know who are sick or struggling in any way.*

Resume worship

Gracious God, from the tables of our homes to this table of your church, you hear our prayers when we are silent and when we speak. We offer the prayers we raise to you through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught:

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

Before the final hymn, extinguish your candles and clear your table and any place in your home which is your focus for worship. Resume worship when you have finished these tasks. As we sing the final hymn, the altar and the chancel area of the sanctuary will be cleared. As the sanctuary becomes silent and darkens, you are invited to hold silence in your home as well.


Sing verses 1-3, hum verse 4 while the altar is stripped



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

BLC Holy Week 2021 Continues!

Our Lenten plea – “We want to see Jesus!”– culminates in Holy Week, when we do see Jesus. As we observe Holy Week as a community this year, we want to see Jesus in all of these ways –not only through a screen in our homes, but in tangible signs and practices throughout the week. [Download the full details here](#) (or contact the church office for a copy) NOTE: Some activities require planning ahead, so don’t wait to read this! Visit <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> for the link to worship, order of service, and any special instructions!

Good Friday, April 2:

Worship will be posted at noon; watch at your convenience!

The worship is led in collaboration with nearby Lutheran churches. Together, we will follow the “stations of the cross” as we see Jesus in various parts of our community and in the faces of the people we meet there.

Easter Sunday, April 4: We see Jesus resurrected just as he promised!

Livestream worship at 8:30am (available to watch anytime afterwards)

Prepare your worship space by finding/unearthing the Alleluia coloring page that was hidden away on Transfiguration Sunday. ([Find it here](#) if you missed it at the start of Lent!) Find something that makes noise - some dry beans in a jar? jingle bells? - and shake them every time you hear "Alleluia" in worship!

Celebrate communion on April 4... Following the communion liturgy (online!), you are invited to make your way to Bethlehem before 11 am to receive the Sacrament. If you or a loved one would like to commune but can’t make your way to BLC, please let Pastor Amy know.

All You Need Is Love

Jesus' command today to love one another is not about having good feelings for each other or being "nice." Jesus tells his disciples that they are to love one another "just as I have loved you." By this definition, love means compassion, mercy, and plenty of hard work. As we see in today's gospel, Jesus' love is active in service and, ultimately, sacrifice. All we need is love, but to love as Jesus loves is no easy thing.

Jesus' love is also inclusive, not meant only for the inner circle. Taken in the context of Jesus' teaching and ministry, his love, and the love he has in mind for us, is offered to all of humanity and, in fact, all of God's creation. The world will know that the church follows Jesus not only by our behavior within our own community, but also as we relate to the world. To love as Jesus loved is to cross boundaries, to stand with the lowliest among us, and to challenge the accepted ways in which the world does business.

John's is the only gospel in which Jesus does not institute the Lord's supper at his last Passover with the disciples. At John's last supper Jesus gives himself to them in a different way. His washing of his disciples' feet is an enactment of his witness to the dominion of God: the first will be last; the lowly will be lifted up; whoever loves their life will lose it. This act of self-sacrifice, one which prefigures his death on the cross, is a living example of Jesus' countercultural definition of love, one which he passes on to the twelve and to us. Washed by Jesus in our baptisms, we too are blessed with and challenged by God's love in Christ and the command to share that sacrificial love with the whole world.

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