



From Table to Trial
Maundy Thursday Service
2023

THE WORD “MAUNDY” comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning “commandment.” The service focuses on Jesus’ last supper with his disciples when he gave them the new commandment to “love one another just as I have loved you.” Jesus’ love is demonstrated both in his example of servanthood and in his gift of himself in Communion. This love is sharply focused by the contrast of betrayal which followed.

I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.

~John 13:34-35

Maundy Thursday

April 6, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

GATHERING IN THE UPPER ROOM

PRELUDE *In Death's Strong Grasp the Savior Lay* J.S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

One: We gather tonight to tell the old, old story,

All: **a story of bitterness and betrayal, of despair, denial, and death.**

One: We gather tonight to tell an even older story, prepared before the worlds began;

All: **a story of love powerful enough to rewrite our endings with the promise of new life.**

One: In the telling of the story, in the breaking of the bread, in the coming of the night,

All: **we draw near once more to Christ.**

*HYMN *Sharing Paschal Bread and Wine* #207, v. 1

The musical score is written in G minor, 3/4 time, and consists of three staves. The lyrics are: "Shar - ing Pas - chal bread and wine as the day - light ebbs a - way, friends at ta - ble join to dine. One of them will soon be - tray. Shad - ows length - en in - to night." The chords are: Dm, Dm7, Am, Am7, Gm7, Dm, Gm, Asus, Am7, Bbmaj7, Am7, Ebmaj7, Dm.

*PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT, AS YOU ARE ABLE



WITH CHRIST AT THE LAST SUPPER

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 26:17-30

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?”

He replied, “Go into the city, to a certain man, and say, ‘The teacher says, ‘My time is near. I’m going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’”” The disciples did just as Jesus instructed them. They prepared the Passover.

That evening he took his place at the table with the twelve disciples. As they were eating he said, “I assure you that one of you will betray me.” Deeply saddened, each one said to him, “I’m not the one, am I, Lord?”

He replied, “The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl. The Son of Humanity goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Son of Humanity! It would have been better for him if he had never been born.”

Now Judas, who would betray him, replied, “It’s not me, is it, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “You said it.”

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take and eat. This is my body.” He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. I tell you, I won’t drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father’s kingdom.” Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

HOMILY

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & REMEMBRANCE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **They are lifted up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION



WITH CHRIST IN THE GARDEN

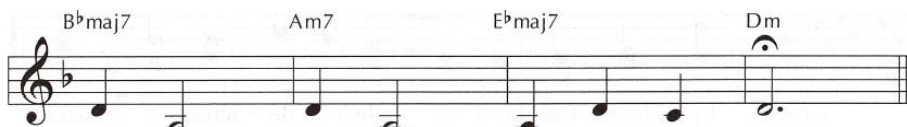
*HYMN *Sharing Paschal Bread and Wine* #207, vv. 3-4



In the gar - den still and deep, those he asked to watch and pray,
Deep-er in the gar - den's chill, Je - sus kneels to pray a - lone,



heav - y - lid - ded, fall a - sleep, wea - ry from the anx - ious day.
wrest-ling with God's ho - ly will, cry - ing out, "Let it be done!"



Shad - ows length - en in - to night.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to the disciples, "Stay here while I go and pray over there." When he took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, he began to feel sad and anxious. Then he said to them, "I'm very sad. It's as if I'm dying. Stay here and keep alert with me." Then he went a short distance farther and fell on his face and prayed, "My Father, if it's possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. However, not what I want but what you want."

He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you stay alert one hour with me? Stay alert and pray so that you won't give in to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak." A second time he went away and prayed, "My Father, if it's not possible that this cup be taken away unless I drink it, then let it be what you want."

Again he came and found them sleeping. Their eyes were heavy with sleep. But he left them and again went and prayed the same words for the third time. Then he came to his disciples and said to them, "Will you sleep and rest all night? Look, the time has come for the Son of Humanity to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up. Let's go. Look, here comes my betrayer."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Jesus prayed. He prayed to his Abba, the Father he knew and loved, because he was hurting and sad and afraid and because he trusted. So let us pray with Jesus.

All: Let us join with Christ in the garden of prayer.

One: Lord, in this garden, as night falls around us, we pray.

We pray for those who are exhausted, out of energy, out of hope, out of faith or out of tries. We pray for those who are exhausted. (Silence)

In your love, Lord,

All: hear our prayers.

One: We pray for those who are anxious, uncertain of the future, wary of the present, with hearts and minds that cannot find rest. We pray for those who are anxious. (Silence)

One: In your love, Lord,

All: hear our prayers.

One: We pray for those who despair, for whom the night has been too long, the grief too heavy, and the comfort too shallow. We pray for those who despair.

In your love, Lord,

All: hear our prayers.

One: We pray for those in pain tonight, whether of body, mind or soul. We pray for those in need of your healing touch. We pray for those in pain.

In your love, Lord,

All: hear our prayers.

One: We pray for those who are too close to death tonight, whether they are entering your rest, or grieving someone gone, or haunted by what they have seen. We pray for those who are too close to death.

In your love, Lord,

All: hear our prayers.

One: And Lord, we pray for ourselves, that we would have the strength to stay awake just a little longer, to stick by those we love, to take notice of the suffering, to trust that we are enough. Jesus did not ask his friends to change his fate, only to stay with him; to stay with him as he met it.

In your love, Lord, fill us with the kind of love that sticks around, even while night is falling.

And finally, give us courage to pray as Jesus taught those same disciples, saying,

All: 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, power, and glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

REFLECTION *Not My Will, But Yours, Be Done*

Joshua Metzger

Dark was the night in Gethsemane.

There Jesus prayed 'neath the olive tree:

“Father, take this cup from me.

Yet not my will, not my will, not my will, but yours, be done.”

Dawn was afar in the garden eve.

Christ prayed alone, his disciples asleep:

“Father, take this cup from me.

Yet not my will, not my will, not my will, but yours, be done.”

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood.

Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood.

He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Deep was the grief on his anguished face,

Troubled by despair and disgrace.

“Father, is there no other way?

Yet not my will, not my will, not my will, but yours, be done.

Not my will, not my will, not my will, but yours, be done.”



WITH CHRIST IN THE DARK NIGHT OF BETRAYAL

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 26:47-56

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came. With him was a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. His betrayer had given them a sign: “Arrest the man I kiss.” Just then he came to Jesus and said, “Hello, Rabbi.” Then he kissed him.

But Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

One of those with Jesus reached for his sword. Striking the high priest’s slave, he cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put the sword back into its place. All those who use the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I’m not able to ask my Father and he will send to me more than twelve battle groups of angels right away? But if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this must happen?”

Then Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, like a thief? Day after day, I sat in the temple teaching, but you didn’t arrest me. But all this has happened so that what the prophets said in the scriptures might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left Jesus and ran away.

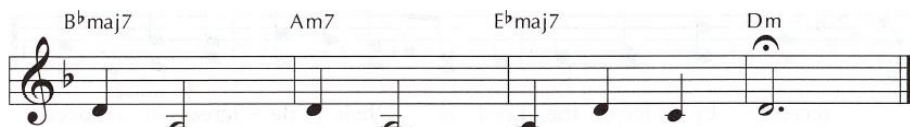
***HYMN** *Sharing Paschal Bread and Wine* #207, vv. 5-6



All too soon the si - lence rends, with a crash of club and sword.
Christ’s dis - ci - ples, weak with fear, fail one fur - ther strin - gent test.



Ju - das still re - ceived as “Friend,” with a kiss be - trays his Lord.
So like us, with trou - ble near, flee - ing far at his ar - rest.



Shad - ows length - en in - to night.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God, your faithfulness to us is so great, that we cannot help but fall short. Yet still we confess our sins, out of the hope you yourself gave us: that you still set a place for us at the banquet of grace, feed us with forgiveness and mercy, no matter what we have done, not matter what we may yet do.

And so tonight, we confess, and we put our trust in you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: For every time you asked us to stay with you, and we wandered away, forgive us.

For every time we fell asleep on the job of being your disciples, forgive us.

For every time we boasted of our loyalty, yet crept away, betrayed, or denied you, forgive us.

For every time we hear this story and think, “We would do better,” forgive us.

For every time we meet your faithfulness with faithlessness, forgive us.

God, your love for us is unfathomably deep, in that you take all our failures and still love us as friend. May we take the gift of your forgiveness, and share it with the world that you made and love so much.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

One: The story we tell tonight is a story of the deepest love; love that would offer forgiveness, even to the traitor at its right hand. The bread was for us; the cup; for us; the cross, for us. We are forgiven, not easily, but the hard way.

All: We are forgiven, not cheaply, but wholly.

One: We are forgiven, and we are freed.

All: Praise and thanksgiving be to God. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.



GOSPEL READING

Matthew 26:57-68; 27:27-31

Those who arrested Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest. The legal experts and the elders had gathered there. Peter followed him from a distance until he came to the high priest's courtyard. He entered that area and sat outside with the officers to see how it would turn out.

The chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. They didn't find anything they could use from the many false witnesses who were willing to come forward. But finally they found two who said, "This man said, 'I can destroy God's temple and rebuild it in three days.'"

Then the high priest stood and said to Jesus, "Aren't you going to respond to the testimony these people have brought against you?" But Jesus was silent.

The high priest said, "By the living God, I demand that you tell us whether you are the Christ, God's Son."

"You said it," Jesus replied. "But I say to you that from now on you'll see the Son of Humanity sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He's insulting God! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, you've heard his insult against God. What do you think?"

And they answered, "He deserves to die!" Then they spit in his face and beat him. They hit him and said, "Prophesy for us, Christ! Who hit you?"

