



The Table to The Cross Dinner Church

Maundy Thursday – April 9, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

This service will take place during your family meal time. You are invited to spend a few hours with your loved ones in your home making a meal together to share with one another as you guide yourselves through this service. As you gather for this Maundy Thursday service here are a few reminders of what this day means to the world. This is the night that Jesus took time to spend with his disciples to share with them one last Passover meal before he would be arrested. During this time Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, he calls out the one that will betray him, and he offers us the gift of Holy Communion.

Together as a family, during this service you will partake in the Lord's Supper. Below you will find a recipe to make bread to be used at communion; know that you are also able to make any bread recipe you feel so moved to use, or simply store-bought will work. Along with this you may choose to serve wine, or juice. During your meal please place the bread, juice/wine, at the center of your table so that it may remain a focal point of why it is you gather to eat and worship with one another this night.

I invite you to split up the roles amongst your family in each reading portion electing someone to read the "L" roles as the Leader with everyone else responding with the bold print. If you are navigating this service alone, please read all words as a reminder of God's promises to you. In this time of physical distancing, if you have a family member that may have no family to join them this evening, please invite them to gather with you via face-to-face communication such as FaceTime, Skype, or Zoom. May God be with you as you worship together.

Communion Bread Recipe

Recipe by Pastor Kayla Hill

2 cups Hot Water

2 Tbsp Honey

1 Tbsp Molasses

2 Tbsp Olive Oil

¼ cup Brown Sugar

1 Tbsp Salt

1 Tbsp Cinnamon

5 – 6 Cups Whole Wheat Flour

Mix all of the ingredients, minus the wheat flour in a mixer, or with hand mixer. Slowly add flour (1 cup at a time) until the dough wipes clean off the side of the bowl. Mix dough with hands for 5 minutes or until very malleable. Divide dough into six balls. Take each ball and pat into a ½ inch thick circle. Take a knife and indent shape of cross in each circle, pushing about half way through loaf, careful not to cut too deep and split the loaf. Take a fork and pierce around the outside edges of the circle. (do not skip this or the bread will cook unevenly). Bake on cookie sheets lined with parchment paper at 400 degrees for 14-20 minutes. Remove from pan, cool on racks or on counter. Makes 6-7 loaves. Freeze the extra.

Washing Away Our Sins

This section of the service takes place before your family's meal begins. During this portion you will be confessing your sins and worries and hearing words of forgiveness and peace. You will also be washing one another's hands to symbolize Christ's washing of the disciples' feet. You may simply gather around a sink in your home and the "Leader" will assist in rinsing and drying all hands while he or she reads the written response. If only two are gathered, please take turns rinsing the other's hands. If only one, please speak the promises to yourself. You may also choose to gather around some sort of pitcher/basin set up, if available.

L: For the reality of sickness, death, and grief, that weigh us down so greatly it becomes hard to breathe,
God, we cry out to you, come and give us peace.

L: For fear, depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts that convince us that there is no light in the midst of darkness, and stops us from seeing ourselves as God sees us:
God, we cry out to you, come and give us peace.

L: For our broken church that too often becomes inwardly focused, caring only for ourselves, rather than loving all our neighbors as Christ loved us,
God, we cry out to you, come and give us peace.

L: For our hurting world where we choose violence, hate, bullying, and division over loving kindness and inclusion of all,
God, we cry out to you, come and give us peace.

L: God knows our greatest joys, laments, and hears our every cry. God walks with us through the darkness reminding us that there is always hope for a brighter tomorrow. God knows that we can never be perfect, yet God continues to love us fully. God forgives all of our shortfalls and mess-ups, and walks with us each and every day reminding us that we are enough. God's beloved, hear this promise, through God, you are never alone, you are always forgiven, and always loved. **Amen.**

L: On the night he was betrayed, Jesus got up from his meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him asking his friends to always remember him and to forever be an example for others like he was to them. Let us pray,

God of Love, as we pour out this water on our hands, may you remind us of the waters of life given to us in our baptisms, so that we may never forget that we have been forever sealed with the cross of Christ and the promises of the Holy Spirit. Help us now, as we wash one another's hands, to always remember the greatest commandment given to us by your Son — that we are to love you fully, and to love everyone just as He loved us. Amen.

As you rinse the hands of the people gathered, please say: In Christ you are washed free from sin, go and love others as Christ has loved you.

A Meal: Nourishment for Our Bodies

During this portion of the service you are invited to sit down together and enjoy the meal that you have made with one another. Please begin your meal with prayer. There is one provided, or stick with the one your family might use at all other meal times. Throughout the meal please read the following three scripture passages at various times before you finish eating. Please encourage everyone gathered to take a turn at reading. Once you have finished, please clear your table so that all that remains are the bread and wine — the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Meal Prayer: God of Life, may this food before us be nourishment for our bodies, as we prepare to also take the meal your Son offers us to be nourishment for our souls. We give you thanks for all that you have given us, and we remember this day all of those who go hungry. May your presence be with them, and stir up in our world a movement that will leave all of your children clothed and fed. We ask this, through Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. Amen.

A Reading from Mark: ¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, “Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.” ¹⁶So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. ¹⁷When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” ¹⁹They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?” ²⁰He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from Mark: ²²While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” ²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, “This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from Mark: ²⁶When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ ²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ²⁹Peter said to him, “Even though all become deserters, I will not.” ³⁰Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” ³¹But he said vehemently, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

A Meal: Nourishment for Our Souls

During this portion of the service, please return to your cleared table, and be seated around the communion elements. This section will begin with prayer, the words of institution, and the Lord's Prayer. You may serve communion in whatever way you feel comfortable. One way that works well is that you serve the person to your right both the body and blood, and continue going around the table in a circle. If there are only two people, please take turns serving one another. If you are one person, you may serve yourself.

L: This is our new commandment: to love one another, as Jesus loves us. By this everyone will know that we are Christ's disciples: that we love one another. Together let us demonstrate our love in prayer, and pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

L: God, you hear the prayers of your people and come to us always.
Now we will lift our prayers to you each and every day.

L: As you saved your people from death by the blood of the Passover lamb,
save us from sin and death through our savior Jesus Christ.

L: As Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord knelt down to wash his disciples' feet,
teach us to serve and love one another with Christlike compassion and humility.

L: Now that Christ has given us this feast of grace, his body and blood,
help us to share it with all who hunger.

L: O Lord, we love you, for you have heard our cries.

Lord Jesus, you came to serve and to give your life as a ransom for many. You washed the feet of your disciples and gave to us the commandment to love one another as you have loved us. Teach us Lord, the joy of serving, the depth of loving, the freedom of forgiveness that we might follow you, our servant king. Amen.

L: Jesus gathered his disciples to share a meal with them.

One who would betray him, one who would deny him, all would flee from him and none would stand with him.

L: Yet he loved them, he wanted to share this meal with them. What they had done, what they would do could not separate them from his love. We too have been invited to eat with Jesus. We too are his disciples. At the table there is room for you and for me. You are welcome at his table where on the night he was betrayed,

Our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to his disciples saying

L: Take and eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again after supper he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying,

L: 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread, and drink of this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

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.

From the Meal to the Cross

During this portion of the service. One or more may read the text printed and may join in song, or simply reflect on the words before the closing litany.

A Reading from Matthew: ³¹Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: “I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.”³²But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” ³³Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” ³⁴“Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” ³⁵But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same. ³⁶Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” ³⁹Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” ⁴⁰Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴²He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” ⁴³When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. ⁴⁵Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

(Sung to the tune of Where You There) Where you there when they led my Lord away? Where you there when they led my Lord away? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Where you there when they led my Lord away?

L: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Jesus, may we live as you lived, love as you loved, and serve as you served, by always loving God and serving others. Send us forth in the power of your love, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Service written and compiled by Pastor Carter Hill and Pastor Kayla Hill.
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