

Maundy Thursday 2020

Call to Worship:

I love the Lord because he hears
my requests for mercy.

**I'll call out to him as long as I live,
because he listens closely to me.**

Death's ropes bound me;
the distress of the grave[a] found me—
I came face-to-face with trouble and grief.

**So I called on the Lord's name:
"Lord, please save me!"**

Praise Song: Amazing Love

Greeting:

This is the day that Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him. This is the day that Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room. This is the day that Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us. This is the day that Christ our God gave us this holy feast, that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim his holy sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection and at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

Hymn: "Take Time to be Holy" **CH572**

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

Hymn: "Here At Thy Table Lord" **CH384**

Communion invitation and prayers:

This marvelous memorial—mightier than any monument or cathedral ever built—points in four directions. First of all, the Eucharist is "In remembrance of me." It points back to Jesus, and all that he was and taught.

Secondly, the feast points forward—forward to the cross and to the bloodshed and brokenness symbolized by the wine, the blood poured out—and by the bread, as representing the broken body.

Then in the third place, the sacrament looks or points inward. It is love's time of self-examination. Too sacred to be partaken of lightly, the act of communion is an awesome thing. Paul warned against eating the bread or drinking the cup in an unworthy manner.

And fourthly, the Lord's Supper not only points backward and forward and inward—but it also points upward. It looks up to God. It is a pledge of **heaven** when the disciples and the Master will drink the cup together anew in the Father's kingdom. In sorrow and weakness we may partake now; but someday, in fullness of freedom and joy and holiness, we shall sit down at the

supper of the Lamb that was slain. Then our real life, the secret, inner life of the Spirit, will be our only life.

Partaking of communion:

Prayer:

God, we witness unheard of things.

You, God, have given power to Jesus of Nazareth, whom we recognize as one of us, to be merciful to others and to forgive them.

We ask you, God, for this power, this freedom to be a healing grace to all those who live with us in this world, as a sign that you are the forgiveness of sins.

God, we break bread for one another and receive the body of Jesus Christ, your Son.

We ask you that, strengthened by him, we may live in love and peace, so that he may be present wherever we speak words, and may become his body in this world, forever. Amen.

Hymn: "Break Thou the Bread of Life" **CH321**

Benediction: