

# Maundy Thursday

## April 1, 2021

**PRELUDE** "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert" by Stuempfile/Williams

Thelma Downey

**LITURGIST:** Jesus spent His life teaching us the meaning of love. Through word and deed Jesus showed us how to love God and to love one another. He fed the hungry. He healed the sick. He invited the women and the children and the tax collectors and the sinners to come to His table. He broke bread with the least and the lost, and shared the cup of redemption with them all. He crossed boundaries of race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and class. He challenged religious authority, and He scoffed at pomposity and self-absorbed grandeur. He called out the hypocrites. He admonished the scribes and the Pharisees for their hardened hearts. He brought a simple message: Love God, love yourself, and love one another.

**ALL: We gather in the Name of Jesus and remember the way that He showed us. We gather to remember not just His death, but His life.**

**HYMN** "What Wondrous Love Is This"

Hymnal #292

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

2 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.

3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme I will sing.

4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

**LITURGIST:** The way of Jesus goes through the cross, but we are not there yet. It is close. We can see its shadow. We can feel the cold, dark night. We know that the enemies of God are conspiring. They have had enough of Him. He threatens their comfort. He threatens their way of life. He threatens their power. They will come for Him. First, though, we will gather. We gather with Jesus and His closest friends. We gather with those who called Him Teacher, Rabbi, Friend. We gather for the Passover meal, to remember that God saved the people from slavery. God saved once. God saves forevermore.

**ALL: God saved the Israelites at Passover, and revealed that it is God Who reigns, not the Pharaoh. Our God saved once. God saves forevermore.**

**LITURGIST:** Even as they were sharing this sacred meal together, the disciples were not of one heart. Jesus knew that He was asking much from these disciples, and He knew that they would fail Him. Judas had already agreed to betray Jesus to the religious authorities. Was he angry at some slight? Was he disappointed that Jesus would not raise an army against the Romans? Was he upset with the value of the oil that the woman "wasted" when she anointed Jesus? We will never know Judas' heart, but Jesus knew that He would be betrayed. And what did Jesus do with the man that would betray Him? He broke bread with him. All of the disciples were deeply saddened, and they asked:

**ALL: "I would never betray You, Lord. It's not me, is it?"**

**PASTOR:** On the night in which Jesus was betrayed by His friend, He took the bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "This is My Body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." When the supper was over He took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to His disciples and said, "Drink from this, all of you, this is My Blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of Me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**PASTOR:** Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and the cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by Christ's blood. By Your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, as we feast at His heavenly banquet. Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your Holy Church, all honor and glory is Yours, Creator God, now and forever.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor Tom

**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. Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together"**

Hymnal #618

Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees)

Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Pastor Tom

**LITURGIST:** When the holy meal had been shared, the disciples began to argue over which one would be the greatest. Even here, at the end of their time together, they did not seem to understand what Jesus had been teaching them all along. He reminded them that to be great in the Kingdom of God meant to serve. After Jesus' talk of betrayal, the disciples' argument, and Jesus' rebuke of them, the disciples seemed to be growing anxious. Peter proclaimed:

**ALL: "Lord, I am ready to go with You to prison and to death."**

**LITURGIST:** And Jesus replied, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you know Me." Afterwards, Jesus led His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. He asked them to pray for Him, for He wanted to be alone. There, Jesus prayed. He asked His friends to keep watch, but they kept falling asleep. He prayed for another way out. He prayed in anguish. He prayed as a man who could feel pain, who would be hurt by betrayal, who would be scarred by the scourge, and would bleed when nails were driven into His arms and legs. He prayed as a man who knew that if He followed God's will, He would be charged, convicted, mocked, humiliated, abandoned, and nailed to a cross. Knowing all of this full well, he prayed, "Not My will, but Yours." Then, He stood up for all that He had lived for. When He got up from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

**ALL: Judas said to Jesus, "Rabbi," and kissed Him. Then, they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested Him.**

**LITURGIST:** There was a brief skirmish at the arrest, but His disciples quickly scattered. Peter, who had only hours before promised to go with Jesus to prison, even death, followed from a distance. During the trial, Peter remained hidden in the shadows. First, a servant girl saw him and said, "This man was also with Him."

**ALL: "Woman, I do not know Him."**

**LITURGIST:** A little later, someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them."

**ALL: "Man, I am not."**

**LITURGIST:** Then, about an hour later, still another kept insisting, "Surely, this man was with Him; for he is a Galilean."

**ALL: "I do not know what you are talking about. I do not know Jesus."**

**LITURGIST:** At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then, Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him, and he wept bitterly.

**(Please end this service in a quiet, prayerful, and reflective manner. There will be no sending forth.)**

**POSTLUDE "Go to Dark Gethsemane" by Montgomery/Redhead**

Thelma Downey