



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

March 28, 2024
Maundy Thursday

Announcements

Good Friday service is set to begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 29. This is a service of prayer, silence, and reflection to mark Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. In place of a homily, a passion narrative will be offered. Communion is not offered during this service. **Easter Sunday** service will begin at 10:30 a.m. This is to accommodate the return of the Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be served 9-10 a.m. Our service returns to its usual 10 p.m. time on April 7.

Coming Services

April 7 - Holy Humour Sunday, 10 a.m. In some traditions, the day is known as Bright Sunday - Jesus has overcome death and the grave, so let us be joyous. You are invited to wear brightly coloured clothing and have a good joke or riddle at the ready for the service. **May 12** - Music Sunday. The Trinity Band and choir will help lead the congregation in song as part of the Mother's Day service. As well, Trinity musicians and singers will provide liturgical music during portions of the service, such as the offering and communion.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle, Dorothy, Katie, Margaret, Sharon, Vern.

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan. Evelyn, Connie, Judith.

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Michelle, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank

Introduction to the day

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. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days

ACS # 1018 Deep Peace

ELW # 343 My song is love unknown

ELW # 499 O Lord, We Praise You

ELW # 720 In the presence of your people

Prayer of the day

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN

Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19

¹I love the Lord, who has ¹heard my voice,

and listened to my ¹supplication,

²**for the Lord has given ¹ear to me**

whenever ¹er I called.

¹²How shall I re- ¹pay the Lord for all the good things God has ¹done for me?

¹³**I will lift the cup ¹of salvation and call on the name ¹of the Lord. R**

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows ¹to the Lord in the presence of ¹all God's people.

¹⁵**Precious in your ¹sight, O Lord, is the death ¹of your servants.**

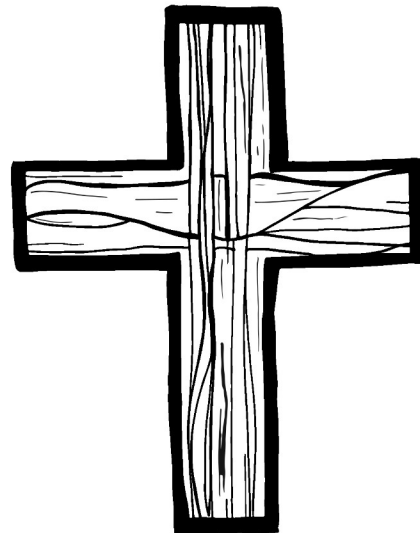
¹⁶O Lord, truly I ¹am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me ¹from my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice ¹of thanksgiving and call upon the name ¹of the Lord.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows ¹to the Lord in the presence of ¹all God's people,

¹⁹**in the courts of ¹the Lord's house, in the midst of you, ¹O Jerusalem.**



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

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."

Sermon

Washing away life's grime

You may have noticed that I had been hobbling during the past couple of months.

In fact, this is the first week since before Christmas when I have been able to walk with a relatively normal gait.

A turned ankle ... then some foot swelling ... both led to problems with my right knee.

Let's talk about feet for a few moments.

I invite you to look at your feet when you are home tonight.

Consider the calluses ... the cracks ... maybe that bunion or that odd-looking toe nail ... the schmutz under a

nail or even the dirt stains that may be there.

These are signs of your life's travels, but ... for a lot of us ... these are the same things that cause us to keep our bare feet from view.

In John's story ... feet are in full view.

Jesus finished his public ministry just before today's passage from John.

He raised Lazarus in Bethany ... and now ... after Mary anointed his feet with an abundance of ointment ... Jesus is in Jerusalem just before the Passover festival begins.

Jesus and his followers gather for a meal.

Jesus ... John tells us ... knows that this is the final trip he'll make to the city. He'll soon depart ... leaving the disciples ... but he has one more lesson to offer.

During the meal, when the disciples are likely enjoying the food and conversation, Jesus gets up ... strips down and wraps a towel around himself ... grabs a basin ... pours some water into it and begins to wash the disciples' feet ... even the feet of the man he knows will betray him and the feet of man who will deny him in the coming days.

He washes all their feet ... and we are allowed to wonder how those two men feel when such a measure of love is practiced upon them.

Other gospel versions of today's passage are heard as part of Maundy Thursday services ... Matthew, Mark and Luke all include accounts of the Passover meal as those gospel writers

use it to set the stage for Jesus' suffering and death on the cross in the three days that follow.

This is not same in John's gospel.

There is no mention of bread being broken or of the cup being passed among the disciples.

The meal isn't where our attention is meant to be drawn.

We are invited to reflect upon Jesus' actions at the basin ... the act of foot-washing. It is an act that models the humble, loving service that those claiming discipleship are expected to follow.

In context of the times, what Jesus did was extraordinary. It was a simple act that challenged society's expectations and traditions. It was an unthinkable act.

Foot-washing was a rite of hospitality in ancient Near Eastern Society.

Slaves were tasked with washing the soiled feet of guests as they arrived at the home or at an event. If there aren't slaves present, then the person was expected to wash their own feet. It was also common practice for students to wash their teachers' feet.

Yet, here was Jesus the teacher ... on his knees ... scrubbing ... rinsing ... drying ... the feet of his followers ... and then telling them the importance of what he was doing ... the service and equality he was modeling for them ... and for all those who hear the story.

¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For 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.

One theologian calls the outpouring of love shown through Jesus' foot-washing "a militant gesture of loving service and self-giving."

Jesus' act demonstrates the humbleness and reciprocal nature that should mark our relationships ... our relationship with one another and our relationship with God.

We are called to a love-inspired ... to love-filled service that is exemplified this instance of foot-washing. This is and other loving acts can overwhelm some ... and disrupt our view of the world.

Peter's statement ... ⁸ "You will never wash my feet." ... begs us to consider how we react when God's expansive love calls us into conflict with what the world holds to be right.

Peter views the intimate act through society's lens ... that it's unbecoming for the teacher to wash the student's feet.

Are we willing not only to wash others' feet ... but to allow our feet to be washed as well?

Jesus tells Peter that he can't be a follower unless the crud is washed away. Once he understands that he ... and all people through faith ... share in God's love, Peter goes all in ... he exclaims:

"Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

It isn't hard to see this as a reminder of our baptism and the call to serve others. It isn't too big a stretch to see the stains as our brokenness being cleansed.

The act of foot-washing invites us to consider our own feet ... the corns, cracked skin, bunions and the schmutz that can be found between our toes and under our nails ... those things we keep hidden as we journey through life.

How willing are we to allow the blemishes and the grime of our feet to be known?

Tonight's gospel story calls us to be vulnerable ... willing to allow love to wash over us ... and willing to place ourselves in service before others.

As we journey toward the cross, we are invited to ponder the baggage we carry in our hearts ... the practices and attitudes that keep us from humble, loving service to others ... and that keep us from allowing others to wash away the grime that we have picked up along the way.

It is also a good time to remember that such service is not done out of obligation or to gain something in the bargain, but out of gratitude ... gratitude for the abundant gift ... the grace we have received ... a gift of love we are called to humbly share through ministry and right relationships.

... a gift that comes through the cross.

AMEN

Lord's Prayer

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

