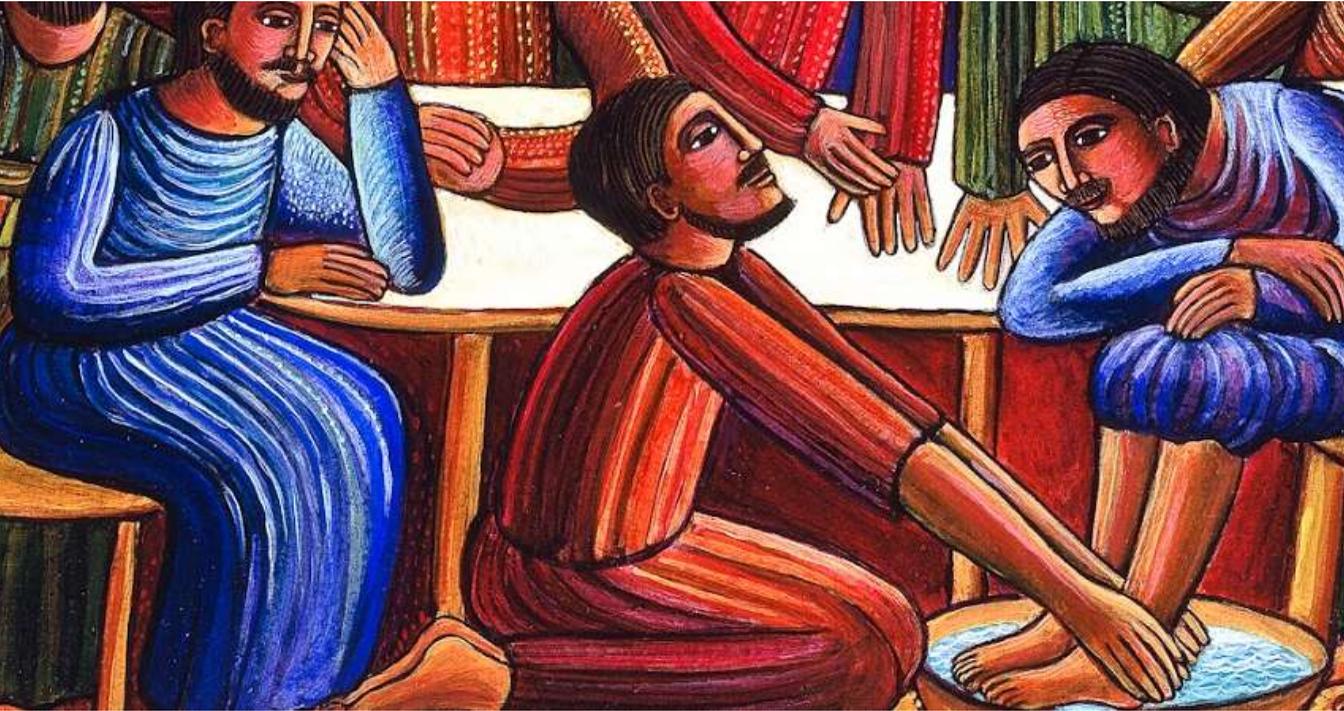


✠ Maundy Thursday ✠



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

[Glendale—Queens]

✠ Thursday, April 9, 2020 ✠

# Service of Light

## Confessional Address

**P** During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other. When we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

Our father in the faith, Martin Luther, described sin as a condition in which a human is turned in on his or herself. Here's an illustration: "Picture a body curved inward--in the fetal position, for example. The shape of the curve does two things: 1) it protects and defends the thing it is turned in on, guarding it and the right to have it to oneself, preferably in the secret shadow of the curve, and 2) its curved form creates a barrier between the heart's desire and the things it wants to keep at bay: judgment, change, help, love, God." When a human is turned in on his or her own desires the world becomes smaller and darker. Without the impetus or wherewithal to reverse course the condition gets progressively worse. Without access to any power greater than him or herself the human becomes trapped in the hamster wheel of their own thoughts and enslaved by their own feelings and desires. This universal human experience exposes the hard truth of sin."

The scriptures teach us that the way to be healed of this condition is to die to self. The way toward healing is to die to the desires that curve us in on ourselves. On the other side of this dying we are raised to new life in Christ Jesus. This dying to self and rising to new life is a gift of the Spirit, we are not motivated to die to our own selves, and we

certainly are not capable of raising ourselves. Therefore, so that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ breathed on his disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:22-23). In our churches we believe that Christians can forgive sins, and we ordinarily designate the pastor to do this in a pointed way on behalf of the community.

Today is Holy Thursday, on this night we usually remember intently "on the night in which he was betrayed." But tonight is unusual. Instead of focusing on the Lord's Supper tonight we will focus on our Lord's promise of absolution to those who confess their sins. We believe that the word of absolution gives us new life and raises us from our death to self. The word of absolution, on account of Jesus Christ, is the word of healing.

So tonight we do *this* in remembrance of Him, He who was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. As our Lord on this night exemplified this love by washing His disciples' feet, so we by our words and actions serve one another in love. This new way of life curves us away from ourselves and curves us toward our neighbor.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

**C** Amen.

**P** Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

## Confession of Sins

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## Absolution

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

*A brief silence in thanksgiving to God*

- L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**C** **the light no darkness can overcome.**
- L** Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
**C** **and the day is almost over.**
- L** Let Your light scatter the darkness  
**C** **and illumine Your Church.**

## Thanksgiving for Light

**L** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Reading

### Holy Gospel

*John 13:1–17, 31b–35*

<sup>1</sup>Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup>rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to

you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup>If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. . . .

“Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

## Meditation

## Canticle

### LSB 436 Go to Dark Gethsemane

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane,  
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see,  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

- 2 Follow to the judgment hall,  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn from Him to bear the cross.
- 3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;  
There, adoring at His feet,  
Mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.
- 4 Early hasten to the tomb  
Where they laid His breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom.  
Who has taken Him away?  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.  
Savior, teach us so to rise.

Text: Public domain

## Prayer

### For Pandemic

Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust You during this time of illness and distress. In mercy put an end to the pandemic that afflicts us. Grant relief to those who suffer, and comfort all that mourn. Sustain all medical personnel in their labors, and cause Your people ever to serve You in righteousness and holiness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Collect For Peace

- ☒ O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world

cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C** **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.**

## Psalmody

*Psalm 22*

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?\*

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my | groaning?

<sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not | answer,\*  
and by night, but I | find no rest.

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are | holy,\*  
enthroned on the praises of | Israel.

<sup>4</sup>In you our fathers | trusted;\*

they trusted, and you de- | livered them.  
5To you they cried and were | rescued;\*  
in you they trusted and were not | put to shame.

6But I am a worm and | not a man,\*  
scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.

7All who see me | mock me,\*  
they make mouths at me; they | wag their heads;

8“He trusts in the LORD; let him de- | liver him;\*  
let him rescue him, for he de- | lights in him!”

9Yet you are he who took me | from the womb;\*  
you made me trust you at my | mother’s breasts.

10On you was I cast | from my birth,\*  
and from my mother’s womb you have | been my God.

11Be not far from me,  
for trouble | is near,\*  
and there is | none to help.

12Many bulls en- | compass me,\*  
strong bulls of Bashan sur- | round me;

13they open wide their | mouths at me,\*  
like a ravening and roaring | lion.

14I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are | out of joint;\*  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted with- | in my breast;

15my strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks | to my jaws;\*  
you lay me in the | dust of death.

16For dogs en- | compass me;\*  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my | hands and feet—

17I can count | all my bones—\*

they stare and gloat | over me;

<sup>18</sup>they divide my garments a- | mong them,\*  
and for my clothing they | cast lots.

<sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, do not be | far off!\*

O you my help, come quickly | to my aid!

<sup>20</sup>Deliver my soul | from the sword,\*  
my precious life from the power | of the dog!

<sup>21</sup>Save me from the mouth of the | lion!\*

You have rescued me from the horns of the wild | oxen!

<sup>22</sup>I will tell of your name to my | brothers;\*

in the midst of the congregation I will | praise you:

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glo- | rify him,\*  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of | Israel!

<sup>24</sup>For he has not despised or abhorred  
the affliction of the afflicted,

and he has not hidden his | face from him,\*  
but has heard, when he | cried to him.

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congre- | gation;\*  
my vows I will perform before those who | fear him.

<sup>26</sup>The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall | praise the LORD!\*

May your hearts live for- | ever!

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn | to the LORD,\*

and all the families of the nations  
shall worship be- | fore you.

<sup>28</sup>For kingship belongs | to the LORD,\*  
and he rules over the | nations.

<sup>29</sup>All the prosperous of the earth eat and | worship;\*  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,

even the one who could not keep him- | self alive.  
<sup>30</sup>Posterity shall | serve him,\*  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;  
<sup>31</sup>they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people | yet unborn,\*  
that he has | done it.

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