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NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
April 9, 2020 - Maundy Thursday
6:30 p.m.
Reverend Giuseppe Mattei



INTRODUCTION

The heart of Maundy Thursday, as the church has kept it for centuries, is about following the example and obeying the new commandment of Jesus when he washed his disciples' feet. The "new commandment" is to "love one another as I have loved you." And Jesus says he has set the example of washing his disciples' feet with the expectation we will wash one another's feet.

Washing feet regularly was necessary in the time of Jesus.

The basic shoe was a sandal, and nearly all roads and even many floors in homes were dust. It became a basic act of hospitality to make sure that guests in homes received a footwashing, typically from a child or a servant, as part of their welcome into the home.

In modern culture, shoes generally protect from dirt and dust, and injuries. For those who work on their feet all day, or lack protective shoes, footwashing remains a powerful sign.

OPENING HYMN

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

659

THE GATHERING

We are gathered in the name of + the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

We join a solemn journey of three days that has changed the world and our own lives. Followers of Jesus have been taking this journey since his first followers took it, long ago.

This is the night of love.

On this night Jesus took a towel and basin, and washed his disciples' feet. On this night he told them to do the same for others to show their love for him and for one another.

This is the night of love.

On this night, followers of Jesus have invited those preparing for baptism to begin with them a solemn vigil of prayer and fasting until the day of Christ's resurrection is fulfilled.

This is the night of love.

On this night, Jesus broke bread and shared wine with his followers for the last time, and invited them to remember him to encounter him anew, whenever they did the same.

This is the night of love.

On this night, followers of Jesus have welcomed those who have returned to the way of Jesus after a time of wandering and a journey of returning.

This is the night of love.

This is the night of love. And so, on this night,
we welcome the penitent --
all here have wandered --
and invite all preparing --
all here are still learning --
to join us in hearing and obeying the commandment of our Master
and to feast at his table, **that we may love one another as he has loved us.**

Come, ye sinners.
Come, ye thirsty.
Come, ye weary.
Come to the night of love.

HYMN

Restore in Us, O God

328

THE WORD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

12:1-14

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 116 :1-2, 12-19

¹I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
²**for the LORD has given | ear to me**
whenev- | er I called.

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

¹³**I will lift the cup | of salvation
and call on the name | of the LORD.**

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

¹⁵**Precious in your | sight, O LORD,
is the death | of your servants.**

¹⁶O LORD, truly I | am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and call upon the name | of the LORD.**

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

¹⁹**in the courts of | the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, | O Jerusalem.**

A READING FROM THE 1ST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

11:23-26

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Return to the Lord) to be sung

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord!

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

THE PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles, "Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;" look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And with your spirit.**

In our heart, let us offer each other and the whole world the blessing of peace.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, **the eyes of all wait upon You, and You open your hand in blessing. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament You strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. **May your Word so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE SENDING

There is no benediction this evening.
Please, observe a moment of silence.

Maundy Thursday Attendance 2019: 86