



**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**April 1, 2021**

**6:00 PM**

**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Reverend Giuseppe Mattei**





## INTRODUCTION

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.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**OPENING HYMN**

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

659

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as  
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers  
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night - time  
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll  
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to  
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er  
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,  
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row  
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.  
 walk the mile and bear the load.  
 speak the peace you long to hear.  
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
 let you be my ser - vant, too.



**THE GATHERING**  
The Holy Spirit calls us  
together as the people of God.

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

### **OPENING REMARKS**

It was a feast night, much like tonight. It was the time of celebration—celebration of God giving freedom, celebration of life and light and love being stronger than the powers of oppression and violence that seem to rule the world.

It was a feast night, a dinner party, with storytelling and laughter and more food than anyone knew what to do with.

And at this feast, a meal with traditions and family jokes and songs of hope, Jesus called his friends to see the world differently.

To see not just bread, not just wine, not just a traditional meal, but to allow their eyes to be opened to see the kingdom of God—the kingdom of abundance, love, sharing, hope...the kingdom of LIFE—laid before them.

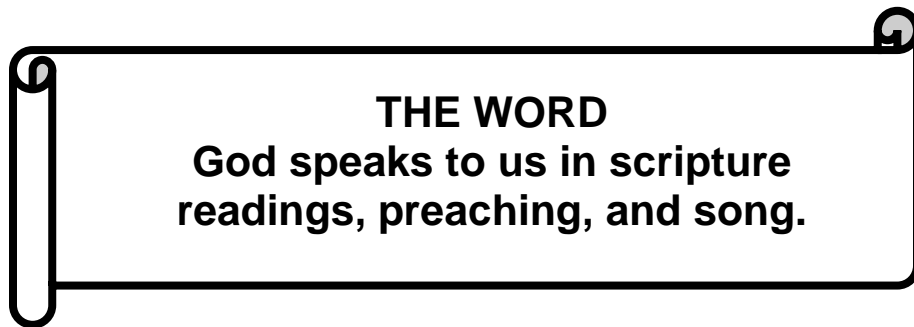
So tonight we are invited to share this same feast, to break bread and let our eyes be opened, to share the cup and know the power of a life poured out in love and obedience.

## 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.**

*Please be seated.*



### SPECIAL MUSIC

*Remember the Lord*

Parks

Soloist: June Heinecke

### A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

**12:1-14**

Reader: Deacon Ruth Ann Hoy

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at

twilight. <sup>7</sup>They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE PSALM**

**Psalm 116 :1-2, 12-19**

Reader: Deacon Clyde Rosten

<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

**<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the good things God has done for me?

**<sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all God's people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in your sight, O Lord,  
is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O Lord, truly I am your servant;

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

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all God's people,

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

**A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER  
OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS**

**11:23-26**

Reader: Deacon Jack Page

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread,

<sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way he

took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

<sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lenten Refrain

*Return to the Lord*



S 151b

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

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

Reader: ELCA Deacon Michelle Mehan-Conklin

The Holy Gospel according to John.

### **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup>Now 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. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <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 to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <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 tied around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I 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, "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.” <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”<sup>12</sup>After 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? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”<sup>31b</sup>“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little 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.’ <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.”

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

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Restore in Us, O God*

328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

How is it people will recognize us as followers of Jesus? Simply by how we treat one another. Let us confess how we have not loved as Christ loves us.

Creator and Loving God, You kneel to wash our feet, **yet we are reluctant for You to see all the places we have gone in our attempts to escape You.**

You would bathe us in the warm, living waters of your love, **and yet we favor the puddles of temptation.**

We have received all the gifts You have to offer, **yet we are tempted to think they are only for us, rather than sharing them.**

Forgive us, Holy One, and have mercy on us.

**What can we give You for all your wonderful graciousness towards us?**

As You have broken your heart open for us,

**may we open ours in service to others.**

As You have given your life for us,

**may we offer ours to bring healing to the world.**

As You have called us together around your Table,

**may we commit to feed a world hungry, not only for food,  
but for that Spirit which brings peace and reconciliation.**

This we pray as servants of Jesus Christ, who came to serve us in life,  
in death, in resurrection hope.

*Silence is kept.*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

On this holiest of nights, we have received the good news: God has come in Christ Jesus, to fill us with hope and peace, to bathe us in grace and mercy.

**In remembrance, we go forth: to bring hope where despair resides; to be servants to those who are broken; to love as selflessly as we are loved by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

## **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.**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*Please be seated.*



## OFFERING

*Please remain seated. You may drop your offering in the basket by the exit door or at the office during the week. You may also donate safely on-line at <https://www.nlcww.org> or on our Facebook page.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please hold your communion set in your hand.

It was the beginning of hope on that night long ago, Liberating God, as You prepared to lead your people to freedom.

**As they readied themselves, You fed them with your unblemished grace, so all sin, pain, and bitterness could be set down and left behind when it was time to follow You.**

It was the beginning of salvation on that night long ago, Servant Lord, as You prepared your disciples for all the things which were to happen.

**You humbled yourself by washing their feet, so they could follow You in service and love to a world which would reject You and hang you on a cross.**

We tell these stories once again on this night of remembrance. Here is the Bread which gives us life; here is the Cup which quenches our thirst for justice;

**here is the towel with which we wash the feet of the broken-hearted; here is the basin which cleanses the stains of the world.**

Prepare us for our journey of discipleship, God in community, Holy in One, as we pray as our Servant, Jesus Christ, teaches us, saying,

### **THE 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.**

The body and blood of Christ given for you.

*Please be seated.*

*Consume the elements now. Place the empty containers into the wastebasket. Observe a moment of silence.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER 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 this sacrament of your body and blood 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.**



## STRIPPING OF THE WORSHIP SPACE

*The stripping of the worship space is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the soldiers' hands.*

*As the worship space is stripped, Psalm 22 is sung.*

**PSALM 22**

Duet: June Heinecke &  
Deacon Ruth Ann Hoy

*There is no benediction this evening. After the worship leaders have left the sanctuary, all depart in silence.*

# Worship Leaders

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**Presiding Pastor**  
**Assisting Minister**  
**Scripture Readers**

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei  
Deacon Ruth Ann Hoy  
Deacon Ruth Ann Hoy  
Deacon Clyde Rosten  
Deacon Jack Page

ELCA Deacon Michelle Mehan-Conklin  
Donna Olsen  
Art Alt

**Music Director**  
**AV Director**  
**Audio**  
**Cameras**  
**Altar Guild**  
**Graphics**

Guy Peeters  
Buddy Kristoferson  
Janet Jones & Gayle Howland  
Diane Alt & Ed Lewis

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**With the birth of Jesus in our hearts  
we carry light and love to the world.**

## **OUR VALUES STATEMENT**

We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

We recognize that God is making us, through grace, into a Fellowship that embodies and expresses the spirit of Christ.

In this fellowship, the Bible says, “there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). We, therefore, welcome equally all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions. (Adopted 9/7/07)

### **NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEEKI WACHEE A CONGREGATION OF THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

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Website: [nlcww.org](http://nlcww.org)

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Ruth Ann Hoy

Deacon Jack Page

Deacon Clyde Rosten

ELCA Deacon Michelle Mehan-Conklin

Music Director: Donna Olsen, Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Jane Henkel/Cherylann Schneider

Sunday Services at 9:30 a.m.