

Zions Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Caitlin M. Kurtz

Maundy Thursday Worship

March 28, 2024

*(Congregation please stand as able)

Please gather in silence

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other.

This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another. *You may sit or kneel for confession.*

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

If you would like to receive individual words of absolution (which mirror the individual words spoken on Ash Wednesday), you are invited to come forward during the hymn.

***GATHERING HYMN: WOV 734 Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling**

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,

call - ing for you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's
 plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and
 prom - ised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has

wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
 heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?
 mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.

Refrain

“Come home, come home! You who are
Come home, come home! You who are
weary, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,
Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

Text: Will Thompson, 1847–1909 Music: Will Thompson, 1847–1909 THOMPSON 11 7 11 7 and refrain

***GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

C: And also with you.

P: 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.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 (*pg. 51 in pew Bible*)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 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. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. 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. 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 judgements: I am the Lord. 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. 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.

After the Reading: Reader: The Word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (*pg. 491 in pew Bible, next*) (*read responsively*)

Leader: I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

Congregation: Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

L: What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

C: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

L: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

C: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

L: O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid. You have loosed my bonds.

C: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

L: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

C: in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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.

***GOSPEL:** John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (pg. 876 in pew Bible)

Before reading: P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th Chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' 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.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

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? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

After reading: P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW 359 *Where Charity and Love Prevail*



1 Where char-i-ty and love pre-vail, there God is ev-er found;
2 With grate-ful joy and ho-ly fear, God's char-i-ty we learn;
3 Let us re-call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho-ly Son;
4 Let strife a-mong us be un-known; let all con-ten-tions cease.
5 Let us for-give each oth-er's faults as we our own con-fess,

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt. Music: attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
 Text © 1960 World Library Publications

TWENTY-FOURTH
 CM

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(after hearing, “Lord in your mercy,” respond: **Hear our Prayer**)
 (after hearing the final prayer petition, “Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior .” respond: **Amen**)

***SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you all. C: **And also with you.**

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

During this portion of the worship service, we offer to God a portion of what God has first given us, trusting that God will use these gifts to do God's work in the world. We offer thanks to God with financial gifts, song, and prayer. Or you can scan this QR code to go to our electronic giving website: <http://www.zionsjonestown.com/giving/>, where you can choose to give either through PayPal, or Simply Giving, our regular electronic offering service, offering one-time, and regular options.



***OFFERTORY HYMN**

☑ Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
 seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite
 them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P: God of mercy and grace, you give us so much: our days, our loved ones, our passions and talents, the food we eat, the homes we know, a place to worship. . . Receive the gifts we offer back to you today. Bless them and bless us, that we will give generously, love boldly, and share widely, that our offering would reflect that joy-filled gifts you first give to us. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION & SENDING

*P: The Lord be with you C: **And also with you.**
 P: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to God.**
 P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: God, our ancestors knew the long road toward joy. Noah saw your rainbow after a devastating flood.

Sarah and Abraham found hope for their future in a covenant promise. Moses cradled your law in his arms and the Israelites found life in the wilderness, where they should have died. Your great love sent us Jesus, Who, clothed with persistent, irrational joy, taught us to love, And then fell like a seed into warm, dark soil as he offered his life for us all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. In the heart of fear and pain, God plants the seed of our joy:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup, Christ's body and blood, the food that strengthens us to persevere until joy appears. Send your Spirit upon us and fortify us to be your body, too, a wellspring of hope for a world in need. All glory, power, and honor are yours, almighty God, today and every day. **C: Amen.**

***INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: We pray as Jesus taught us, asking for anything we need:

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name, your king-dom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai - ly bread. For-give us our sins as we for-give
 those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de-liv-er us from e - vil.
 For the king-dom, the pow'r, and the glo-ry are yours, now and for- ev - er. A - men

***INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

At the ushers instruction, you are invited to come forward, pick up either a pre-filled grape juice cup, or empty communion cup, and kneel or stand at the communion railing. (gluten free wafers are available for those who need that accommodation, please let Pastor know when you are communing) Here, you will first receive the bread, and then either a blessing of your grape juice, or the wine poured into your glass. After consuming both elements, return to your seat by the side aisle, placing your empty glass in the tray.

*Those who are worshipping at home this morning are invited to **pray this prayer**, trusting that Christ’s spiritual presence is with you at all times and places. If you would like Pastor Caitlin to bring communion to your home, call her at 717 865 3652 and she will be glad to do so.*

“Loving Jesus, since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine according to your promise in the sacrament of Holy Communion, I ask you to come to me in Spirit. Feed me, for I am hungry; strengthen me, for I am weak; enliven and sanctify me with Your sacred Body and Blood. Deliver me from all sin and make me always obedient to Your commands. Let me never be separated from You, my Savior, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God forever and ever. Amen.”

COMMUNION HYMNS: #423 *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* (green book)
 #709 *Eat This Bread* (repeat as needed) (below)

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.
 Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

Text: John 6; adapt. Robert Batastini, b. 1942, and the Taizé Community Music: Jacques Bérthier, 1923–1994
 © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

BERTHIER
 irregular

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: 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 ALTAR AND PSALM 22

In remembrance of Judas' betrayal, and knowing that Jesus' life will soon be stripped from him, we strip from the altar all signs of hope. As we do so, we read responsively Psalm 22, portions of which Jesus muttered from the cross

Pastor: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

Congregation: My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest.

P: Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

L: Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.

P: They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

C: But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people.

P: All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

C: "Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him."

P: Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb, and kept me safe on my mother's breast.

C: I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

P: Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

C: Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

P: They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion.

C: I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax.

P: My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of death.

C: Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me; they pierce my hands and my feet.

P: I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.

C: They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.

P: But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

C: Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

P: Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

C: I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

P: You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

C: For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

P: From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

P: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

C: For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

P: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

C: Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

P: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, the LORD has acted!"

Please depart in silence. Our worship continues tomorrow at 7 PM.

We're glad you're here! Whether today is your first day at Zion's, or your thousandth, we're glad you're here, and we look forward to worshipping with you. If you're new, or it's been a while, we invite you to fill out one of the "We're glad you're here" white envelopes located in the pew back to ensure our records are correct, and so we can connect with you further. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you, and welcome!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Friday, March 29 at 7 PM Good Friday worship in the sanctuary

Easter Sunday, March 31, 6:30 Sunrise Worship in the sanctuary and 10:30 Traditional Worship in the sanctuary with Easter prelude beginning at 10:10 am.
(NO Sunday School or Confirmation class on this day)

All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-720459. NRSV Bible © by the Division of Christian Education of the NCCC in the USA. Reprinted from Lutheran Book of Worship, ©1978. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #15379-1. Reprinted from With One Voice, ©1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #15467-W. "The Seed of Joy: Confession and Forgiveness, Prayer of the Day, Offertory Prayer, Eucharistic Prayer, Blessing © 2023 Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission. [Adapted by Pastor Caitlin Kurtz]"