

The Falls Village Congregational Church
MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 1, 2021 7 pm

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Pastor

INTRODUCTION

Maundy is the English form of the Latin word meaning commandment. Jesus' new commandment to "love one another even as I have loved you" is the focus of Maundy Thursday. This love is demonstrated in Jesus' example of servanthood and the gift of Jesus' self in Holy Communion.

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this day

Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

On this day

Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

On this day.

Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us.

On this day

Christ our God gave us this holy feast, that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim his holy sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection, and at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

HYMN #214 "Rock of Ages," vv. 1,2

PRAYER FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY(Unison)

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. Write this commandment in our hearts; give us the will to serve others, as he was the servant of all, who gave his life and died for us, yet is alive and

reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Mark 15:33-39; - 1st Cor 11:23-26

COMMUNION MEDITATION - "The Essential Cross"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

COMMUNION HYMN #385 "An Upper Room Did Our

Lord Prepare" vv 1,2

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Leader: God be with you

People: **And also, with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise**

THE LORD'S PRAYER ("trespasses")

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(It is the custom of this church for everyone to partake of the bread individually, when it is received, as a sign of our personal relationship to God, and then everyone hold the cup and drink together, as a sign of our unity before God)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

O God, by coming to your table we receive more gifts than we deserve. We give thanks for Jesus Christ, through whom we receive life and in whom we are bound by covenant. Renew us so we may willingly serve as Christ served. Amen

HYMN 197 - "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," v. 1

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

First Reading: **The Darkness of Betrayal** Matthew 26: 20 – 25

Reader: Frank Hadsell

Response: "O Lord, have mercy on me."

Second Reading: **The Darkness of Denial** Matthew 26: 31 - 35

Reader: Akke Jasmine

Response: "O Lord, have mercy on me."

Third Reading: **The Darkness of Gethsemane** Mark 14: 32-41

Reader: Barry Fenstermacher

Response: "O Lord, have mercy on me."

Fourth Reading: **The Darkness of Mocking** Mark 15: 16 – 20

Reader: Maria Bulson

Response: "O Lord, have mercy on me."

Fifth Reading **The Darkness of the Cross** Mark 15:33-39

Reader: Dick Heinz

Response: "O Lord, have mercy on me."

HYMN - 198 "Were You There" v. 1

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble

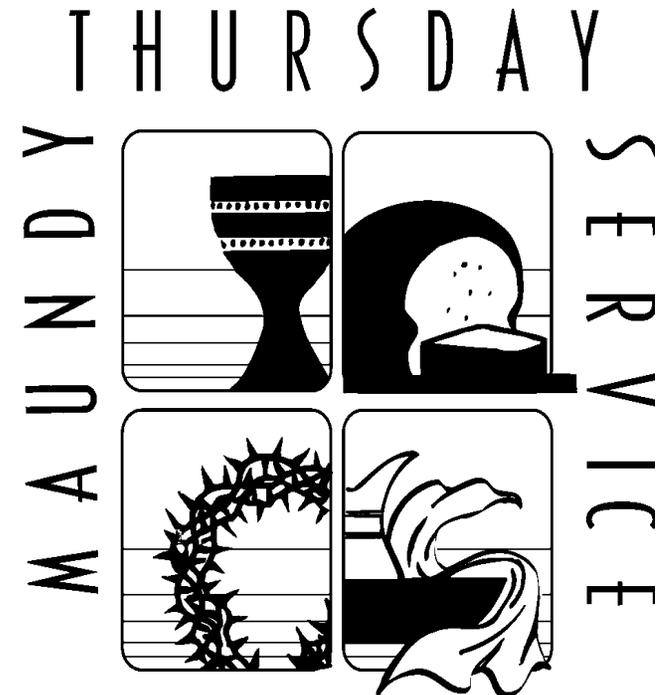
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Departure

All are invited to leave in silence, without a benediction. This symbolizes God's seeming silence in the face of the cross until it is transformed powerfully by the joy of the resurrection.

Go in peace as we await the day of resurrection.

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1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me
 2. Not the la - bors of my hands can ful -
 3. Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply
 4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine

hide my - self in thee; let the wa - ter and the blood,
 fill thy law's de - mands; could my zeal no res - pite know,
 to the cross I cling; na - ked, come to thee for dress;
 eyes shall close in death, when I soar to worlds un - known,

from thy wound - ed side which flowed, be of sin the
 could my tears for - ev - er flow, all for sin could
 help - less, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the
 see thee on thy judg - ment throne, Rock of A - ges,

dou - ble cure; save from wrath and make me pure.
 not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Scripture Lessons for 4/1/2021

Mark 15:33-39

The Death of Jesus

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land^[a] until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"^[b] ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he^[c] breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"^[d]

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

²³ 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, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for^[a] you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ 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." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

385 An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

1. An up - per room did our Lord pre - pare for those he
 2. A last - ing gift Je - sus gave his own: to share his
 3. And af - ter sup - per he washed their feet, for ser - vice,
 4. No end there is! We de - part in peace, he loves be -

loved un - til the end: and his dis - ci - ples still
 bread, his lov - ing cup. What - ev - er bur - dens may
 too, is sac - ra - ment. In Christ our joy shall be
 yond the ut - ter - most: in ev - ery room in our

gath - er there to cel - e - brate their ris - en friend.
 bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.
 made com - plete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.
 Fa - ther's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1. Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,
 2. Up - on that cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see
 3. I take, O cross, thy shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me;
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
 the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.