

Welcome
Maundy Thursday
April 9, 2020



UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146
(704) 636-5092 ~ <http://ulcsalisbury.org>

9:30 a.m. Sunday School ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship

Rev. Heidi Punt, Pastor - pastor@ulcsalisbury.org
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*A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally Grounded - Congregationally Focused*

ORDER OF SERVICE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The music selection should begin with the postlude that was played on Palm Sunday since this service is a continuation of the Passion Week that was introduced on Palm Sunday

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND INDIVIDUAL FORGIVENESS:

P As often as we eat of the bread and drink of the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Therefore, let us examine ourselves and make confession to God, that we may in obedience to the command, eat of the bread and drink of the cup, receiving in faith the grace of God which is poured out upon us through this holy supper. (Based on 1 Corinthians 11:27-28)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination. You may choose to kneel, stand or sit during this time and as we share the confession in unison.)

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage 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. Lost in our own selfish concerns, we have often failed to consider the needs of those around us. We pray that you would open our eyes to one another, and strengthen the communion we share as fellow members of the body of Christ. Amen**

(Forgiveness is pronounced individually. You are invited to come forward as you are led by the Spirit.)

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. For here in the Sacrament, you receive from Christ's lips the forgiveness of sins, which contains and conveys God's grace and Spirit with all his gifts, protection, defense, and power. (From Luther's Large Catechism)

C **Amen**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Do you believe in God, the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 24:3-11

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do." ⁴And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." ⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words." ⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 116:12-19 (read in unison)

¹²I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
¹³Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his servants.
¹⁴O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
¹⁵I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving*
and call upon the name of the Lord.
¹⁶I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
¹⁷In the courts of the Lord's house,
In the midst of you, O Jerusalem, Hallelujah!
¹⁸I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
¹⁹In the courts of the house of the Lord
in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 9:11-22

¹¹But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." ²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used

in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

HYMN

Abide With Me

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 26th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:17-30

¹⁷Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. ²⁰When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²²And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" ²³He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me." ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so." ²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." ³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Heidi Punt

HYMN OF THE DAY *Eat This Bread, Drink this Cup*

Refrain:

Eat this bread, drink this cup, Taste and see the goodness of God.
Bread of Life, cup of love, we rejoice in your presence.

I will bless the Lord at all times, Praise with heart and voice;
In my God I glory forever: listen and rejoice! (Refrain)

Look upon the Lord, be radiant, never turn away.
God will save in ev'ry affliction, hear us when we pray. (Refrain)

Angels fold their wings around us, guard through good and ill.
Those who seek the Lord will lack nothing; taste, and have your fill. (Refrain)

Saints of God, bow down and worship, bless the holy name.
Rise to tell God's greatness forever, wondrous deeds proclaim! (Refrain)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P For the Sacrament of the Altar Holy God we give you thanks that you have given us the sacrament of Christ's body and blood in exchange for our sin. Nourish us and transform our lives according to your purposes for the world. [We pray for all those who will receive their first communion this day. As they join the community of faith at the Lord's holy table, grant them peace and joy.] Lord in your mercy. **C Hear our prayer.**

P For Servant's Hearts Lord God, you sent Jesus into our human life to share our experience and to model for us the life of true service. May we be humble enough to kneel at the feet of our friends and wash their feet, tend to their needs, and love them unconditionally as Jesus did for his friends. Lord in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

P For the Cross of Christ, As we near the hours when our Savior Jesus was arrested, interrogated, sentenced and put to death, allow us the time to sit quietly and reflect on his loving sacrifice. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we would hear your voice in the midst of our devotion. Lord in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

P For the Sick and Suffering, God of all healing, grant your healing power to those who are struggling with burdens of mind, body, or spirit. Bless their caregivers who so painstakingly stand by their side and encourage them to greater health. [We pray especially for...] Lord in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Remember us in your Kingdom and teach us 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.

P Tender and merciful God at your feast you yearn to feed us who bring nothing but brokenness. You wish to turn our emptiness into joy and fill us with abundant grace. Create within us anticipation and hunger to gather at your table once again.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

P Stripping the altar is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in our Lord's earthly life. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgatha and execution. As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of comfort and life to symbolize His suffering and death.

CLOSING PRAYER

P The meal is done. The table is cleared. The room is empty. You make your way toward Gethsemane. Lord Jesus, where soldiers will come to capture you. Keep us ever mindful, as your passion and death approach, that your self-sacrificing love is for us. In your most holy name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we pray.

C Amen

DEPARTURE

(The assembly departs in profound silence. In the evening, some find it a good custom to drive home and to go to bed without any further conversation.)

Maundy Thursday Service recalls Jesus' last supper with his disciples where he institutes what the church knows as the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As a sign of his servant-love, Jesus washed his disciples' feet and gave them a new commandment, that they should love one another as he has loved them. We see ourselves in the disciples, who will abandon their Lord in various ways as Jesus makes his way to the cross.