

READING

John 18:1-8

REFLECTION

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Beneath the cross of Jesus, I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am.
For hands that should discard me
Hold wounds which tell me, “Come.”
Beneath the cross of Jesus, my unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, his family is my own,
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams,
Now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor the ones that you have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus, see the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, the path before the crown,
We follow in his footsteps where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us, to be his perfect bride.
Beneath the cross of Jesus, we will gladly live our lives.

READING

John 18:10-27

REFLECTION

#232 “Ah Holy Jesus”

READING

John 18:28-40

REFLECTION

SILENCE

READING

John 19:1-16a

REFLECTION

#225 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

READING

John 19:16b-30

REFLECTION

SILENCE

READING

John 19:31-42

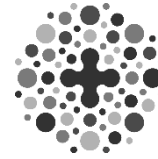
REFLECTION

#213 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
vv. 1, 3, 4

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

After “When I Survey” is finished, you are invited to come forward to the cross, remove a red ribbon or two from the nails, place the ribbon(s) in the basket to the side of the cross, and leave the sanctuary in silence.

This action symbolizes that Jesus has died and is in the tomb.



Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

John 1

*SONG

“Bless the Lord” *sung 3x*

Bless the Lord, My Soul
PSALM 103:1



Let Us Sing Again #20
Words: The Community of Talat © 1991, 1998 Alliborn et Presse de Talat, Talat Community, France, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent.
Music: BLESS THE LORD MY SOUL, S.S.S.B. Jacques Bonhôte (1922-1994) © 1991, 1998 Alliborn et Presse de Talat, Talat Community, France, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Christ, on that night long ago,
you knew that your hour had come.
You knew full well what lay ahead of you.
Your disciples loved you and followed you,
but they had also failed you.
They would fail you yet again that night,
and one would betray you.
Yet you washed their feet, as a servant would,
even the feet of your betrayer.
We have also loved you and followed you.
We have also failed you,
and we cannot comprehend the love that you show us,
the love that is our example,
the love that tells us to do as you have done for us.

(Over)

May we be like you, Master, servants of all.
May all see how we long to be your faithful disciples.
May all see how we love each other,
just as you have loved us.
In your holy name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

"Grace" chorus
2x acapella

By grace, I am redeemed. By grace, I am restored.
And now I freely walk into the arms of Christ, my Lord.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of great love, we gather tonight
as a people remembering Jesus' cross-bound journey;
**as a people remembering that the calls of, "Hosanna! Save us!"
turned to cries of "Crucify him!"**

As we listen to these familiar words,
help us be present to our place in the story.
For sometimes, like the sleepy disciples in the garden,
we are disengaged and apathetic.
Sometimes, like Judas,
we sell you out for our own agendas.
Sometimes, like Peter,
we deny you out of fear over what others might think.
Sometimes, like the once-adoring turned-scornful crowd,
we are fickle and inconsistent.

May we receive the words of this story
as a sign of your faithfulness even when we are unfaithful.
For this is the story of your great love.
And it is through that love that we are transformed.
In Jesus' name, we pray . . . amen.

THE MEANING OF MAUNDY THURSDAY

READING

John 13:12-38

REFLECTION

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Tonight, we remember the Passover meal during which Jesus gave us the practice and pattern for communion – a sign of love even in the face of betrayal and denial.

Why do we come to the table?

Like the waters of baptism, the table is a sign of God's covenant of grace with us – a sign of our belonging.

Why do we eat bread at this table?

On the night before he died, Jesus sat at a table. He took bread, blessed it, and broke it. Then he gave it to his followers saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, broken for you."

Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

That same night around that same table, Jesus took the cup saying, "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant of forgiveness made with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me.

What do we remember tonight at this table?

We remember Jesus' death and resurrection. We remember the Spirit's presence and God's love. We remember that all of this is for us so that we may belong to God in Christ Jesus.

And we remember the mystery of the faith:

**Dying, Christ destroyed our death;
rising, Christ restored our life.
Come again, Lord Jesus.**

Communion is served via intinction, meaning you are invited to exit the pew on your left, come forward, pick up a piece of bread, and dip the end of the bread lightly in the cup before eating the bread.