

# Maundy Thursday Agape Feast

## April 1, 2021 - 6pm



Lutheran Church of the Living Christ  
Florissant, MO  
[lc-livingchrist.org](http://lc-livingchrist.org)

### Opening Words

P: Jesus' last night with his friends was spent in a place called the Upper Room. There, Jesus gave them a new commandment, which is what Maundy means. Jesus knelt down and washed their feet, a sign of humility, service, and love. He taught them saying, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

L: They gathered around a table for a meal. The disciples expected a Passover meal like the ones they had shared before. But this turned out to be unlike anything they had ever known.

P: This was the first time Jesus took the bread and wine, blessed them, and said, "This is my body" and "This is my blood." Every time we celebrate communion, we're remembering this night. We remember the promise that Jesus continues to come to us, even today, in the bread and wine.

L: The meal isn't just about the bread and wine; it's about receiving this gift from one another and with one another. Christians celebrate Holy Communion when the assembly or community is together. During our love-distancing these days, being together has taken on a deeper meaning and we have shared this meal in new ways. Even in different places and spaces, this promise comes still as we gather around tables of love.

P: Tonight we share in a time of worship, service, and fellowship. Tonight is a sign of God's love for us and the love we share between us. So let us worship; let us receive and share; let us serve and love.

### **Love Litany**

L: Tonight we join a solemn journey of three days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, & Holy Saturday, that has changed the world and our own lives. Followers of Jesus have been taking this journey since his first followers took it, long ago.

**C: This is the night of love.**

L: On this night, Jesus took a towel and a basin, and washed his disciples' feet. On this night he told them to do the same for others to show their love for him and for one another.

**C: This is the night of love.**

L: On this night, Jesus and his followers gathered together to remember God's steadfast love from the beginning of time to the fullness of eternity.

**C: This is the night of love.**

L: On this night, Jesus broke bread and shared wine with his followers for the last time, and invited them to remember him, to encounter him anew, whenever they did the same

**C: This is the night of love.**

L: And so, on this night, we welcome all who wonder and have wandered, all who have prepared and all who are still learning, to join in hearing and obeying the commandment of our Lord and to feast at his table, that we may love one another as he has loved us.

**C: This is the night of love.**

### **Prayer**

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of life in faith may speak again in our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies. For the food we are about to eat and for all who prepared it we give you thanks. In our fellowship, make us the body of Christ. Nourish us to be your hands and feet in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

### **Eat & Share!** (Breakout rooms)

*As you eat together, think about some of the special meals that you have shared with the people you love.*

- *What made them memorable?*
- *How is this similar to or different from Holy Communion?*
- *What new ways of showing love have we discovered over the last year?*

### **Song** - [Ubi Caritas \(Audrey Assad\)](#)

#### **The First Reading:** Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month will be the first month; it will be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole Israelite community: On the tenth day of this month they must take a lamb for each household, a lamb per house. If a household is too small for a lamb, it should share one with a neighbor nearby. You should divide the lamb in proportion to the number of people who will be eating it. This is how you should eat it. You should be dressed, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You should eat the meal in a hurry. It is the Passover of the LORD. I'll pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I'll strike down every oldest child in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I'll impose judgments on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be your sign on the houses where you live. Whenever I see the blood, I'll pass over you. No plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. "This day will be a day of remembering for you. You will observe it as a festival to the LORD. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time.

#### **The Second Reading:** John 13:1-7, 12-16, 34-35

Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully. Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You don't understand what I'm doing now, but you will understand later." After he washed the disciples' feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, "Do you know what I've done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak correctly, because I am. If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example: just as I have done, you also must do. I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who

are sent greater than the one who sent them. "I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

### **Remembering The Washing**

L: Jesus washed his disciples' feet, reversing roles of master and student, servant and host, and told them to do the same to show the world God's love and theirs.

**C: This is the night of love.**

L: We remember Christ's command to love one another as he has loved us.

**C: This is the night of love.**

L: Know that you are loved by Christ and invited to share that love with one another.

**C: This is the night of love.**

### **The Third Reading:** Luke 22:7-13

The Day of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John with this task: "Go and prepare for us to eat the Passover meal." They said to him, "Where do you want us to prepare it?" Jesus replied, "When you go into the city, a man carrying a water jar will meet you. Follow him to the house he enters. Say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher says to you, "Where is the guestroom where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?"' He will show you a large upstairs room, already furnished. Make preparations there." They went and found everything just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

**Song - [Ubi Caritas \(Taize\)](#)**

### **The Fourth Reading:** Matthew 26:26-30

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take and eat. This is my body." He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. I tell you, I won't drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father's kingdom." Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

### **Communion**

P: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

**C: This is the night of love.**

P: When the world was a formless void you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists

cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

**C: This is the night of love**

P: Remembering his death, we cry out Amen

**C: Amen**

P: Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen

**C: Amen!**

P: Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

**C: Amen!**

P: O God, you are breath; send your Spirit upon those who feast on your holy food. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

**C: This is the night of love.**

P: Having heard the teachings of Jesus Christ receive now these signs of God's love for you: The body and blood of Christ broken and shed for you.

**C: Amen**

**Song - [Ubi Caritas \(Ola Gjeilo\)](#)**

### **Words of the Peace**

P: Finally, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

**C: This is the night of love.**

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

**C: Amen**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

### **Psalm 22**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;

by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Our ancestors put their trust in you,

they trusted, and you rescued them.

They cried out to you and were delivered;

they trusted in you and were not put to shame.  
But as for me, I am a worm and not human,  
scorned by all and despised by the people.  
All who see me laugh me to scorn;  
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.  
“Trust in the Lord; let the Lord deliver;  
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”  
Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,  
and kept me safe on my mother’s breast.  
I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;  
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.  
Be not far from me, for trouble is near,  
and there is no one to help.  
Many young bulls encircle me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.  
They open wide their jaws at me,  
like a slashing and roaring lion.  
I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is melting wax.  
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.  
Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;  
they pierce my hands and my feet.  
I can count all my bones  
while they stare at me and gloat.  
They divide my garments among them;  
for my clothing, they cast lots.  
But you, O Lord, be not far away;  
O my help, hasten to my aid.  
Deliver me from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog.  
Save me from the lion’s mouth!  
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.  
I will declare your name to my people;  
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.  
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.  
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.  
From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the Lord,

who rules over the nations.

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.

Their descendants shall serve the Lord,

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

*At the conclusion of the psalm, you are welcome to remain on the Zoom call for a time of silent reflection and prayer. The service ends with silence and you may depart when it feels right to you.*

*For information about opportunities for worship on Good Friday and Easter Sunday visit [www.lc-livingchrist.org](http://www.lc-livingchrist.org)*