

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
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Maundy Thursday Worship Service

March 28, 2024 6:30pm

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

HYMN

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” PH #97

CALL TO CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

RESPONSE

“Glory Be to the Father” PH #579

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 12:1-10

ANTHEM

“Were You There?” SLUC Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

SERMON

“What He Has Done”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. 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.

***HYMN**

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” PH #98

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Distribution of Loaf and Cup

Prayer Following Communion

STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH

Exit in silence as we prepare our hearts for what is to come.