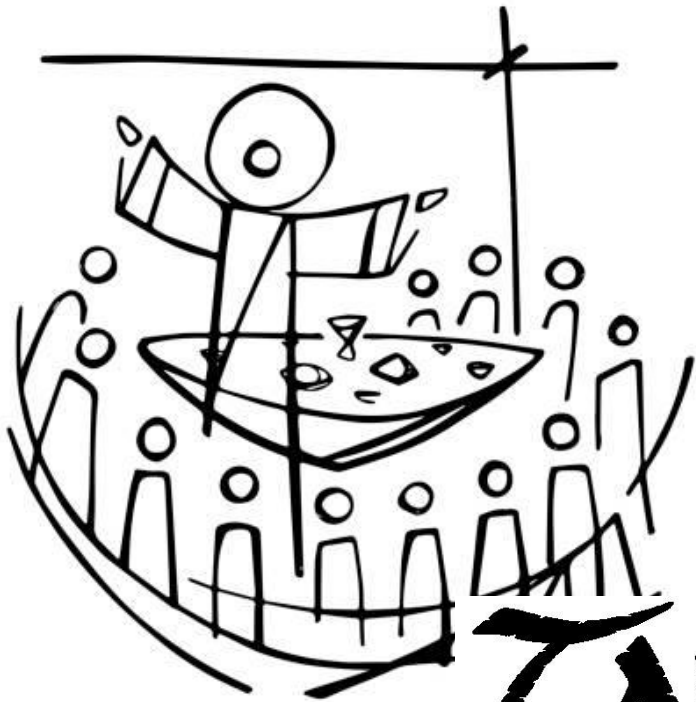


Maundy Thursday
April 6, 2023 ~ 7 PM.



**TAKE,
EAT,** IN
REMEMBRANCE
OF ME.

INVITATION

*OPENING HYMN

Jesus Took the Bread

#343

**Jesus took the bread, daily gift of God,
formed of wheat and sweat and toil, sun, rain, and sod.**

**In our hands we take gifts of bread and wine,
Gathered from the fields of earth, signs of love divine.**

**Jesus blessed the bread, thanked the God of grace,
Thanked the One who made all worlds, all time, all space.**

**Blessing, honor, praise, all to God belong.
Let us lift our hearts to God in a thankful song.**

**Jesus broke the bread, then he poured the wine.
Broken body, life poured out, God gives as sign.
Weak, afraid, and lost: that is when we're healed.
In our human brokenness: there God is revealed.**

**Jesus gives the bread at our table still,
Gives the cup to those who seek God's loving will.
Let us go in peace; let us freely give,
Sharing love with all the world daily as we live.**

OPENING PRAYER

God of our weary years and honest, heartfelt tears; we bring our whole lives to the table tonight. Like the first disciples who gathered with Christ, we long for Your liberating love to interrupt our lives. We trust that You hear our cries, yet we are confused when our pain isn't immediately and instantly removed. We know that in broken bread, You remind us that You are in the less-than-perfectness. You, O God, are there in the wounds and wants of life. We know that You promise that brokenness is *never* the last word. Yet, we feel like our mailing address is somewhere between the bread and cup of blessing. We come tonight with woundedness *and* wholeness. We come with brokenness *and* blessedness. Meet us in this messy moment in ways that reassure us of Your self-giving, self-empty sacred love that will never let us go. In the name of the One who calls us to the table by name and welcomes us with an embrace, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Here, O My Lord, I see You Face to Face

#336

**Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon you lean.**

**Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here share the cup, the gracious gift of heaven;**

**Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.**

**This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heavenly table spread anew;
Here let me feast, and feasting still prolong
The brief, bright hour together here with you.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Exodus 16, *selected verses*

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from the Red Sea on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. ²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” ⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? ¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

EXTINGUISHING CANDLES & SILENT PRAYER ~ *When and where has God most recently fed you?*

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:1-9

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” ³Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. ⁴But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.” ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.” ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, “Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you.” ⁸He got up and ate and drank; then

he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. ⁹ At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there.

EXTINGUISHING CANDLES & SILENT PRAYER ~ *What is most life-giving when you are afraid or angry; what helps you when you are frustrated or fearful?*

PREPARING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Matthew 26:17-30

¹⁷ On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸ He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ ” ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. ²⁰ When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, ²¹ and while they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²² And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” ²³ He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” ²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.” ²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” ³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

EXTINGUISHING CANDLES & SILENT PRAYER

*HYMN

Christ at Table There with Friends

#227

**Christ at table there with friends sharing bread and wine, and then
Speaking words of mystery: “Thus remember me, thus remember me.”**

**In the garden Jesus bows. Harsh the cry that rises now:
Father, some way let it be! Take this cup from me, take this cup from me!”**

**“Yet your will, not mine, be done. For this purpose I am come.
Thus to make all people new I take this cup from you, I take this cup from you.”**

**At our table Jesus stands, Word of God with nail scared hands.
“Come, receive the mystery. Take this cup from me, take this cup from me.”**

HOLY COMMUNION

One: On this holy night, may God be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Open your heart, soul, and whole life to the Holy.

Many: **We fling open all that is within us to meet the One who is the great, “I AM”.**

One: We give thanks for God’s presence here meeting us in this meal.

Many: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS FROM THE TABLE

Between

Pastor Wes

PRAYING OUR SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:31-35

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’” ³² “But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” ³³ Peter said to him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” ³⁴ Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” ³⁵ Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.”

EXTINGUISHING CANDLES & SILENT PRAYER ~ *When was the last time you made a promise you were not able to keep?*

PRAYING OUR SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:36-46

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” ³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want.” ⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

EXTINGUISHING CANDLES & SILENT PRAYER ~ *What is your deepest prayer to God tonight? How might you stay awake to God, especially when life is difficult?*

PRAYING OUR SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:47-56

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?” ⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

“Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

EXTINGUISHING CANDLES & SILENT PRAYER ~ *When was the last time you stood silent on the sideline or wanted to run away out of fear?*

PRAYING OUR SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:69-75

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” ⁷⁰ But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” ⁷¹ When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.” ⁷² Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” ⁷⁴ Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed. ⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER (*whispered*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

STRIPPING of the ALTAR

Please leave in silence after Pastor Wes exits with the Bible.

Our service of worship continues tomorrow with **Good Friday service at noon**, in the sanctuary and online (YouTube, Facebook, and Website) with our choir participating.

Easter Sunday Celebration!

At **9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**, we warmly welcome a **brass quintet** along with our amazing choir who will lead worship. Pastor Wes and Greg will help everyone celebrate that, **“Christ is risen! Alleluia!!”**

Thank you to our amazing participants tonight (in order of the readings)
Evelyn Crooks; Carol McCloud; Lindsey Huddleston; Gregg Matthews; Jeannie Mitchell; Frank Hallice; and Clarence Rogers

Greeters: Dale and Cindy Woodling