

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

“Jesus, Remember Me”

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

“Bless the Lord, My Soul”

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Praying together)

Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for refreshing and renewing us with this meal. We praise you for nourishing our lives with the gracious gift of your life. In response to these gifts, may we live with faith and serve as you taught. By your Spirit, empower us to be your people of love in this world. Amen.

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

(Please exit in silence.)

✠ *Good Friday Service: April 22 at 7:30 pm*

✠ *Easter Sunday Services: April 24 at 8:30 am & 10:00 am & 11:30 am*

THE MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE is one of endings and beginnings. What was begun on Ash Wednesday is brought to a close here tonight. What begins tonight does not end until the resurrection of Easter. It is the ancient Triduum, “The Three Sacred Days,” which lead us to Easter: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday with its Vigil of Easter.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR: Oftentimes the service for Maundy Thursday concludes with the stripping of the sanctuary, which is done in absolute silence and in an unhurried, orderly fashion. The practice dates from the seventh century and originally served the practical purpose of cleaning the sanctuary in preparation for Easter, when all things are made new. In time, however, the practice became ceremonial in its own right. In silence and in shadows, communion vessels, table cloths, pulpit and lectern hangings, banners, candles, and all other decorative and liturgical objects are sensitively removed, thus dramatizing the desolation, abandonment and darkness of the passion and death of our Lord. The sanctuary remains bare until the beginnings of the Easter celebration. Ordinarily there is neither a blessing nor a postlude at the conclusion of the service. The church remains in semi-darkness, and all exit in silence. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors.

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MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Tokyo Union Church

April 21, 2011

7:30 pm

Congregation’s words in **bold**; sung words in *bold italics*

* Please stand.

PRELUDE

“The Last Supper”

C. A. Penfield

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

Pastor: Welcome to all of you who call upon the name of Christ.
We gather together to recall the story of the night Jesus was betrayed. Are you prepared to come to the feast of Jesus, the Christ, whose life was poured out for you?

People: By the grace of God, we are.

Pastor: Are you able to watch with Jesus in prayer in the garden, to struggle and be in unity with God’s will for you?

People: By the grace of God, we are.

Pastor: Then let us praise God, even in this hour of darkness!

All: God of all grace and steadfast love, greatly is your name to be praised in all the earth. Bring us to this feast of remembrance with open hearts! Amen.

*HYMN No. 94

“An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare”

CALL TO CONFESSION (Responsively)

Pastor: As we prepare for this sacred evening, let us remember who we are.

People: We are God’s beloved yet broken people.

Pastor: In faith and humility, let us then confess our sin before God and one another. Let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Praying together)

Merciful God, tonight we come confessing our faults before you. We know that too often we have forgotten you, even though you are so faithful to us. We fail at being servant-like for one another, humbling ourselves as Jesus humbled himself for the disciples.

O Lord, forgive our sinful pride and arrogance, our trust in ourselves rather than in you. Forgive our indifference to each other. Grant us the nourishment and meaning in life that our souls long for. Lead us once again to your table of grace, and unite us with Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow... (time for silent confession). Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS – Hymn No. 101 (verses 1 and 2)

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 12:1-32 (Pew Bible, OT, p. 56)
Lector: Jody Fuller

ANTHEM “Darkness Fell O’er the Earth” Sanctuary Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 22: 1-23 (Pew Bible, NT, p. 81)

MEDITATION Pastor Matthew Hardin

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“An Upper Room with Evening Lamps” (Tune: “Abide with Me”)

**An upper room with evening lamps ashine,
The twelve disciples, and the table spread;
Now in our turn Christ bids us pour the wine,
And in remembrance bless and break the bread.**

**So send us out, to love and serve and praise,
Filled with his Spirit, as the Master said:
Love, joy, and peace the wine of all our days,
Christ and his life our true and living bread.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whom you sent to deliver us from the bondage of death and slavery to sin.

People: In humility, he came to serve others, though he is the one worthy of being served. In love, he took the punishment for our sins, though he is the one who knew no sin.

In obedience, he accepted the sting of death, though he is the one who has all power and glory.

Pastor: In his crucifixion, he ransomed us from sin’s control; in his resurrection he opened the way to eternal life.

People: Even now, in our tiredness he sustains us, giving us his body for strength. In our sinfulness he shows us mercy, giving us his blood for forgiveness.

Pastor: And so as we thank you and remember you, O Lord, we pray you pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and cup. Enter into us now through this holy meal, that we may be overcome by your grace. We praise you, O God, as we join together in the prayer that Jesus taught his followers to say:

All: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[During this evening’s Communion Service we will remember Jesus’ Last Supper with his twelve disciples. The ushers will direct groups of twelve persons to be seated at the table in the front of the sanctuary. As the unleavened Passover bread is passed to you, please take a piece. Then, pass the matza bread to the person next to you, saying, “The body of Christ, broken for you.” As the cup is passed to you, dip your piece of bread in the cup, and eat it. Then, pass the cup to the person next to you, saying, “The blood of Christ, shed for you.” After all at the table have been served, the pastor will indicate that you may return to your seats, using the side aisles.]

CANTICLES DURING COMMUNION

– (From the Christian Community in Taizé, France)

“Eat This Bread”

**Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.**

“Wait for the Lord”

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

“Stay With Me”

**Stay with me, remain here with me.
Watch and pray, watch and pray.**