

Resurrection Lutheran Church thanks the Office of Worship of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for providing these resources for worshiping at home during the Holy Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter.

Worship in the Home

The Holy Three Days: Maundy Thursday April 9, 2020

In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While you cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

What follows here are resources for you and those with whom you live to use for praying together on the three central days of the Christian year. While Easter is every Sunday, these Three Days are like one great annual Sunday. But because of the pandemic, we cannot do these important services together in church. While Easter is a joyful festival, we keep it now in a time of difficulty and world-wide sorrow. Still, we believe that Christ is with us in his word, by his Spirit drawing us together as one before God. And we believe that the gospel of Christ gives us strength amid distress and comfort in the face of our sufferings.



There are other resources you may wish to consult as well. While hymns and songs are suggested, you are welcome to choose others that will work in your context. Likewise the prayers of intercession may be adapted as desired. If you have young children, you may wish to see a multi-sensory resource provided [here](#).

In setting up a space for worship, consider the physical symbols you could set out. On Maundy Thursday, this would be materials needed for a footwashing or hand washing: basin, towels, and pitcher. If desired, you may choose to remove items from a home worship space at the conclusion of worship on this day as a kind of “stripping of the altar” in your home.

A similar version of these resources in Spanish is available: [Los Tres Dias – Recurso para la casa](#)



Set out a bowl of water and a clean towel. Sit with them before you and begin with these texts. First, remember God's forgiveness:

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us
even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace we have been saved.
Our sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.
Almighty God strengthen us with power
through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.
Amen.

Then pray the prayer for this night:

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The readings for Maundy Thursday may be read, as follows.

First Reading Exodus 12:1–14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 may be sung or spoken.*

¹I love the Lord, who has ¹heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹supplication,

²for the Lord has given ¹ear to me
Whenever ¹er I called.

¹²How shall I re- ¹pay the Lord
for all the good things God has ¹done for me?

¹³I will lift the cup ¹of salvation
and call on the name ¹of the Lord.

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows ¹to the Lord
in the presence of ¹all God's people.

¹⁵Precious in your ¹sight, O Lord,
is the death ¹of your servants.

¹⁶O Lord, truly I ¹am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me ¹from my bonds.

¹⁷I will offer you the sacrifice ¹of thanksgiving
and call upon the name ¹of the Lord.

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows ¹to the Lord
in the presence of ¹all God's people,

¹⁹in the courts of ¹the Lord 's house,
in the midst of you,¹ O Jerusalem.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

Gospel John 13:1–17, 31b–35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had

come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

^{31b}"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

Reflection

Having read these readings, think of this:

This word about the love of Jesus is always the beginning of any time. By remembering the Passover and the Last Supper and the footwashing, we are not trying to get back to an old time. In the face of the suffering and death with which the world is filled, our trying would not come to much. But God's word comes to us now. To our time. Even when we cannot meet for the holy supper together, this word — which takes these three nights to say — comes to us: Jesus Christ is our forgiveness. He is the Lamb whose blood marks the doors of our houses and bodies. In the power of the Spirit, he has washed our feet and our lives. And he turns us toward our neighbors. In this word — and in the cross proclaimed tomorrow and the resurrection proclaimed on Saturday night — Easter comes out to hold us already.

If you have a hymnal, you might now sing or read "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 358), "Where True Charity and Love Abide," (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 653) or "A New Commandment"

[*Where True Charity and Love Abide*](#)

[*A New Commandment*](#)

Here you may wash your own feet or hands, using the water in the bowl, recalling Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Or, if there are several of you worshipping together, you may wash each other's hands or feet, thinking of the love of Jesus poured out on each of us in this difficult time. If you choose to do as we do in church and wash each other's feet, you would need a pitcher, basin,

and towel. In washing you hold the heel, pour the water, and dry the foot. Please note that this action may be entirely omitted, especially if someone in your house has tested positive for the virus.

Prayers of Intercession

United with Christians around the globe on this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the church, the earth, our troubled world, and all in need, responding to each petition with the words, **"Your mercy is great."**

A brief silence.

Blessed are you, holy God, for the church. Gather all the baptized around your presence in the Word. Strengthen the body of your people even when we cannot assemble for worship. Grant bishops, pastors, deacons, musicians, and all worship leaders faithfulness and creativity for their ministry in this time, and accompany those preparing for baptism.

A brief silence.

Hear us, holy God.
Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, bountiful God, for this good earth and for the flowering of springtime. Save dry lands from destructive droughts. Protect the waters from pollution. Allow in this time the planting of fields for food. Make us into care-givers of your plants and animals.

A brief silence.

Hear us, bountiful God.
Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, sovereign God, for our nation. Inspire all people to live in peace and concord. Grant wisdom and courage to heads of state and to legislators as they face the coronavirus. Lead our elected officials to champion the cause of the needy.

A brief silence.

Hear us, sovereign God.
Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, faithful God, for you accompany suffering humanity with love. Abide wherever the coronavirus has struck. Visit all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. Support physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organization.

A brief silence.

Hear us, faithful God.
Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, gracious God, for you care for the needy. We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying (*especially*).

A brief silence.

Hear us, gracious God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, loving God, that your Son knelt before us, your unworthy servants. Preserve our lives, comfort our anxiety, and receive now the petitions of our hearts.

A longer period of silence for additional spoken or silent prayers.

Hear us, loving God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith, and those whom we name before you here.

A brief silence.

At the end, bring us with them into your everlasting glory.

Hear us, eternal God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive, merciful God, our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the host of our meal of life, who died and rose that we might live with you, now and forever.

Amen.

If you have a hymnal, you might now sing or read "Love Consecrates the Humblest Act" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 360) or "Where Charity and Love Prevail." (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 359)

[*Love Consecrates the Humblest Act*](#)

Finally, remembering Jesus going to his arrest and his death, the events from which all the mercy that fills this night flows, pray this Psalm.

Psalm *Psalm 88 may be sung or spoken.*

¹O Lord, my | God, my Savior,

by day and night I | cry to you.

²Let my prayer enter in- | to your presence;

incline your ear to my | lamentation.

³For I am | full of trouble;

my life is at the brink | of the grave.

⁴I am counted among those who go down | to the pit;

I have become like one who | has no strength;

⁵lost among the dead, like the slain who lie | in the grave,

whom you remember no more, for they are cut off | from your hand.

⁶You have laid me in the depths | of the pit,

in dark places, and in | the abyss.

⁷Your anger weighs up- | on me heavily,

and all your great waves | overwhelm me.

⁸You have put my friends far from me; you have made me to be ab- | horred by them;

I am in prison and can- | not get free.
⁹My sight has failed me be- | cause of trouble;
 Lord, I have called upon you daily; I have stretched out my | hands to you.
¹⁰Do you work wonders | for the dead?
 Will those who have died stand up and | give you thanks?
¹¹Will your lovingkindness be declared | in the grave,
 your faithfulness in the land | of destruction?
¹²Will your wonders be known | in the dark
 or your righteousness in the country where all | is forgotten?
¹³But as for me, O Lord, I cry to | you for help;
 in the morning my prayer | comes before you.
¹⁴ Lord, why have you re- | jected me?
 Why have you hidden your | face from me?
¹⁵Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the | point of death;
 I have borne your terrors | and am helpless.
¹⁶Your blazing anger has swept | over me;
 your terrors | have destroyed me;
¹⁷they surround me all day long | like a flood;
 they encompass me on | every side.
¹⁸My friend and my neighbor you have put a- | way from me,
 and darkness is my on- | ly companion.

The Three Days continue with the service for Good Friday.



For your individual or group devotion, you may desire to listen to following choral recordings made available through Augsburg Fortress. [“Love One Another”](#), [“Where Charity and Love Prevail”](#), [“There Are Children at the Door”](#).

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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