

*A New Covenant and a New Altar
Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2015*

As We Gather

This Lenten season we have been focusing on the many different altars that we find as recorded in the Books of Moses, the Pentateuch, Genesis to Deuteronomy. Sacrifice was central to many of those altars. God's promises made and delivered were central to true worship. We also saw the altar of the Golden Calf, the idolatrous altar where the love and trust in things other than God leads to His righteous anger and judgment. That altar reminds us all of the great need of our Savior.

Tonight we rejoice that the New Covenant Christ came to bring resulted in a New Altar: the altar of His sacrifice for us and the resulting sacrificial meal we call the Lord's Supper. It is a covenant of grace, a covenant of mercy, a covenant of forgiveness. It is a covenant that not only forgives us all our sins, but a covenant that calls us to live a life of love in the name of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we gather at His table tonight, may we be mindful of the bond we have with Him . . . and with one another . . . and all those who belong to Him.

Prayer of Preparation

Lord Jesus Christ, on this very night so long ago you instituted your holy supper of grace and forgiveness. Grant that I may prepare to eat in a worthy manner, repenting of all my sins. Grant that I may find comfort, knowing how great is your love and forgiveness. Grant that I may be strengthened to bear the fruit of your love in my life. In your name, Jesus, I ask these things. Amen.

Welcome

Opening Hymn # 524 "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, And drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build, My shield and hiding place;
My never failing treasury filled With boundless stores of grace.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, Accept the praise I bring.

How weak the effort of my heart, How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death!

(1)

Rise

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Responsive Psalm 116:12-19

Pastor: What shall I render to the Lord

People: for all His benefits to me?

Pastor: I will lift up the cup of salvation

People: and call on the name of the Lord.

Pastor: I will pay my vows to the Lord

People: in the presence of all His people.

Pastor: Precious in the sight of the Lord

People: is the death of His saints.

Pastor: O Lord, truly I am your servant;

People: I am your servant, the son of your maidservant; you have freed me from my chains.

Pastor: I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving

People: and call on the name of the Lord.

Pastor: I will pay my vows to the Lord

People: in the presence of all His people:

Pastor: In the courts of the house of the Lord –

People: in your midst, O Jerusalem.

All: Praise the Lord.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, seeking His grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

All: Almighty God, our merciful Father, we confess to you that we are sinful from birth, even from the moment of conception. We have failed to faithfully follow your will. We have turned to our own ways, instead of following your holy ways. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, and in the things we have done. We deserve your righteous judgment and punishment. For the sake of Jesus, forgive us, renew us, and lead us in the way of life everlasting.

Pastor: We have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way, and the living God has laid on Jesus the sin and iniquity of us all. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus Christ, by his command and authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

(2)

Song of Praise # 806 “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.
And now let the weak say “I am strong,” Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say “I am strong,” Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks, give thanks.

Pastor: Let us pray together:

All: O Lord Jesus, since you have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant, we pray, that this sacrament of your body and blood may confirm us in true faith, work in us the fruit of love and forgiveness, and strengthen us to walk daily with you; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 24:3-11

When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

Responsive Gradual

Pastor: Christ entered the Most Holy Place once for all

People: by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Pastor: He is the mediator of a new covenant,

People: that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

Pastor: He provided redemption for His people;

People: He ordained His covenant forever.

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

Verse

Pastor: For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,

People: you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

Rise

Reading of the Holy Gospel: Mark 14:12-26

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me--one who is eating with me." They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?" "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many," he said to them. "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God." When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Be Seated

Sermon Hymn # 649

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christians love;
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

Before our Father’s throne We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.

When here our pathways part, We suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.

Sermon "Lifting Up the Cup of Salvation" **Text: Psalm 116:12-19**

Confession of Faith # 953 "We All Believe in One True God"

We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever present help in need, Praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfolds, All creation He upholds.

We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son,
Who descended from His throne And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.

We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessed, holy Trinity, Praise forever be to Thee!

Offerings As your offering is collected, *please sign our attendance book* located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

Rise

Prayers

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe. By your mighty power you created us and all that exists. When your people broke your covenant of Law, you promised a New Covenant of mercy and grace.

People: For your faithfulness to your people and your promises, we give you thanks.

Pastor: In your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, you have established that New Covenant with us, sealed with His very body and blood. We praise you for the love and forgiveness we have received in His name.

People: Bless us by the power of your Holy Spirit that we may love and forgive one another day by day.

Pastor: As your Son came to bring peace, we pray for peace in our midst. You have united us together as one, making us all members of one another in the body of Jesus Christ. Bind us together by His love.

People: Help us to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace we have in Christ. Grant us the grace to work together to proclaim the Gospel of salvation in a world that is still divided by sin.

Pastor: Hear our prayers, Lord, for others. We especially pray for Norman & Audrey Neeley, Harvey & Virginia Laurich & Wendy Rentmaster mourning the death of Ginger; Mark, Hermine, Jack, Marge, Eleanor, Edith, Ruth, Sharon, Helen, Charles, Shirley, Dennis, Marion, Jack, Gretchen, Pat, Lois, Sarah.

People: According to your will, give peace to the troubled, healing to the sick, comfort to the sorrowing, and hope to the hopeless.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, as we prepare to approach your table, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may worthily receive your body and blood with the joy and peace that comes from the forgiveness of our sins.

People: Strengthen our faith through this praiseworthy gift, that we may live our lives as your children and share with others the hope, the joy, and the peace we have in Christ.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Words of our Lord

Pax Domini

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Agnus Dei

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Be seated

Distribution

6:00 Bell Anthem

"Cantilene"

Karen Lakey Buckwalter

Hymn # 628 "Your Table I Approach"

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

Hymn # 420 “Christ, the Life of All the Living”

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the depth of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff’rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit,
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;
Yes, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee, Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou mightest own me
And with heav’nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee: Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou has suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Hymn # 436 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not frn His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

Common Dismissal

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Pastor: Lord God, our Father, during this week of Jesus’ Passion, when we remember and attend to all that your dear Son gave for us, you have provided us with a memorial of the Passover meal and the freedom from bondage and slavery it embodies. Through the Sacrament of Christ’s body and blood, you have freed us and granted us your peace. Hold us fast in the living hope that all our sins are forgiven through Jesus until we come at last to celebrate with all your saints the Lamb’s high feast in His kingdom which lasts forever; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

6:00 STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR AND CHANCEL – The Reading of Psalm 22

As the verses of the psalm are read, the candles are extinguished. All linens and adornments are removed by the altar guild and elders. These are signs that our Lord Jesus was stripped, beaten, and crucified.

Closing Prayer

Pastor: Gracious Father, grant that we may put off our old selves with all our sinful deeds and put on the new person, which bearing the image of your Son, Jesus, has been given us in Holy Baptism, that when we let go of our earthly habitation, we may not be found unclothed, but being transformed may receive the garment of a new glorious body like His, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace,

People: In the name of the Lord.

The worshipers leave in silence.

Preacher
Liturgist
Acolyte
Bell Choir Director
Organist
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Gregg Stanton
Sydney Kadolph
Matthew Compton
Roger Gottschalk
Kim Woller