

GUIDED *to the* CROSS

Maundy Thursday
GUIDED TO SERVICE



6:30 p.m. – Service of the Word and Sacrament

Order of Service

Saint Michael Lutheran Church

3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024

In this service for Maundy Thursday, Jesus washes the disciples' feet in service to them on His way to Calvary. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of service to others guided by Christ and the cross.

Prelude

"Behold the Lamb"

arr. by Jason Payne

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"Come to Jesus (Rest in Him)"

see insert

Invocation & Opening Sentences

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: On the night before He died, Jesus spoke to His disciples about many things: the betrayal and denial to come, the promised gift of the Holy Spirit and the peace that He alone can give. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

People: Jesus, our Savior, grant us Your peace.

Pastor: Jesus told His disciples that He was the true vine and that abiding in Him they would bear fruit in works of love. He gave them a new commandment, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." (John 13:34)

People: Jesus, our Savior, teach us to love one another as You love us.

Pastor: On that same night of His betrayal, the night He would be abandoned by His disciples, Jesus gave them a lesson in love and service. The Lord of all took up a towel and a basin of water and washed His disciples' feet. The next day He would lay down His life for them, for us, for all people. As Jesus had said of Himself, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

People: Jesus, our Savior, set your cross before us to guide us in the way of service.

Confession & Absolution

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

People: Almighty God, we have not followed our Savior in the way of love and service. We seek to serve ourselves. We want to fulfill our own selfish desires and turn away from the needs of others. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

(Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.)

Pastor: God sent His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to serve and save us. On the cross, Jesus shed His blood to cleanse us from sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: Lead us, Jesus, to walk in Your steps in the way of love and service.

Anthem

"At the Feet of Christ, My King"

*by Ben and Katie Ball
offered by the Sanctuary Choir*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NIV)

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

Epistle Reading

Romans 7:4-6

⁴So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. ⁵For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. ⁶But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 26:26-29

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." ²⁷Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Hymn of the Day

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"

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Sermon

“Guided to the Cross: Guided to Service”

Pastor Dave Bass

To watch and listen to last week’s sermon online at www.smlcs.org,
click on “Church” and “Watch the Live Stream.”

The Nicene Creed

Offering

A special stewardship note to our guests: the ministries and work of Saint Michael Lutheran Church are supported by the generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends as they steward God's gifts. You are our GUEST today. Please do not feel compelled or pressured to make a contribution.

Online contributions and donations can be made by clicking this link: tinyurl.com/SMLGiving.
You may also mail your offerings to the church office: 3595 Broadway, Ft. Myers, FL 33901.

Prayers and the Lord’s Prayer

Holy Communion

Distribution Anthem

“Ave Verum”

*by W.A. Mozart
offered by the Sanctuary Choir*

Distribution Hymns

“Behold the Lamb”

see insert

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

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The Stripping of the Altar

Responsive Reading

1 Peter 2:21, 24; Psalm 22

Pastor: For to this you have been called because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you might follow in His steps.

People: He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. Amen.

Pastor: We continue with the reading of Psalm 22.

(See insert for Psalm 22.)

The congregation departs in silence.