

# MAUNDY THURSDAY

St. John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 7:00 P.M.

Prelude: Lenten Preludes

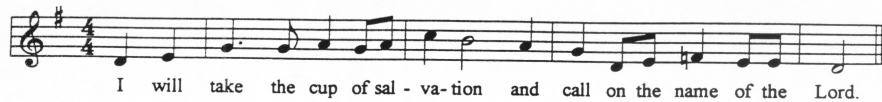
Processional Hymn #180 'Giver of the Perfect Gift'

Maundy Thursday Greeting, p. 304

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Reader: Rose Conrad

Psalm 116:10-17



Second Reading: I Corinthians 11:23-26

Reader: Aisling Curtin

Gospel: John 13:1-15

Homily Fr. Alvin

Washing of feet - Washing of hands

Prayers of the People:

Lord, teach us how to love.

Confession and Absolution, p 191

The Peace



Offertory Hymn #64 'Author of Life Divine'

Prayer over the Gifts, p 306

Eucharistic Prayer # 6, p 207

The Lord's Prayer, p 211

The Breaking of the Bread #7, p 213

Lamb of God

Anthem during Communion:

In Remembrance of Me – arr. Douglas

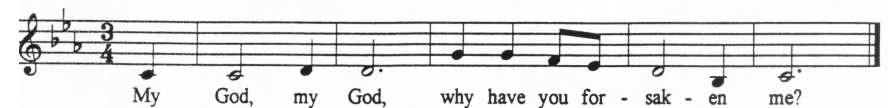
Prayer after Communion, p. 307

The Blessing

Stripping of the Altar

During the stripping of the Altar we read:

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 25:30-36 followed by Psalm 22



Everyone is invited to keep watch with the Lord, this night, as he prayed to his Heavenly Father in the Garden of Gethsemane, so too, we are encouraged to keep a vigil of prayer. The church will remain open for prayer throughout the night. "Will you keep awake, one hour with me?"

As you leave the church, please honour the silence.

## The Easter Triduum

We are quickly approaching the end of Lent. This season of prayer and of fasting and of almsgiving began on Ash Wednesday. Its 40 days are now almost over. On Maundy Thursday, before we begin our evening Liturgy, Lent quietly concludes. Lent is called a time of purification, for we strive to cast out whatever we find in ourselves that is evil. Lent is the time for those preparing to be baptised at Easter to complete their final spiritual preparation and a time for Christians everywhere to take a look at how they are living out the promises of their baptism.

All the days of Lent, all the practices of Lent, should find us ready on Maundy Thursday to enter the short season that is the very heart of the church's year. This is a season that is three days long. That is what its name means: 'Triduum -the three days'. It begins on Maundy Thursday evening and lasts only until Easter Sunday Evening. It includes the liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Great Easter Vigil. The Services on Easter Sunday morning are within these three days, although they also begin the great 50 days of rejoicing called the Easter Season. The Easter Season continues until the Feast of Pentecost.

The "Easter Triduum." - the three days, focuses on the heart of the mystery of Christ's love for us. Even though it continues over three days, only one mystery is celebrated. This is "The Paschal Mystery," that is, the mystery of Christ, and it is our own mystery: "Dying, He destroyed our death; Rising He restored our life."

When we enter the 'Triduum' on Maundy Thursday we celebrate the Lord's Passover Supper and his example of loving service given by washing the disciple's feet. We say: "We glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." The next day, at the Good Friday service, we hear of Christ's sacred passion and death, and honour the wood of the cross and say: "Through your cross you brought joy and salvation to the world." On Saturday evening, at the great Easter Vigil, we proclaim: "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again." We light the new fire -the light of Christ and baptise young and old into the death and resurrection of Christ the Lord.

At the Easter Vigil, each parish assembles to be together for an evening of watching and praying. For it is on this night that the church baptizes. Those who have been preparing for this great night are brought to the baptismal font, the womb of the church. This is sharing in the paschal mystery. As St. Paul says: "Are you not aware that we who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life." All our life-long, we are living out what happened to us in the water of baptism. Each Lent calls us to live that way. Each Easter we find God's love expressed for us in the life-giving waters of Baptism and in the gift of Christ's Body and Blood in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

On Easter Sunday, we gather with Christians the world-over to celebrate that Christ is indeed, Risen from the dead. We celebrate that we are now witnesses to Christ's presence among us and are sent forth as 'ambassadors' of Christ to the world.

Come, then to the parish liturgies of the Easter Triduum. Come on Maundy Thursday evening when we tell and show how Jesus washed the feet of this disciples. Come on Good Friday when we hear the reading of Christ's Passion and venerate the cross. And come on Saturday night to the Easter Vigil to stay awhile: to light the new fire and listen to the grand stories of God's love for us, to celebrate Baptism and to share in the Eucharist. And come on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ Jesus and our mission as disciples.

