

Is It I?  
a Maundy Thursday service  
for  
choir and congregation



Reformation Lutheran Church  
*"Gathered by Christ to be and make disciples."*  
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## INSTRUCTION

P In this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil--all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Within the community of his Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant.

It is in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. The Eucharist is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

*The assembly stands (if able)*

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## LAYING ON OF HANDS

*People may come forward for the laying on of hands.*

*The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn.*

P In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

*The person may respond **Amen.***

*Proceed prayerfully downstairs for the remainder of the service.*

# OPENING HYMN

## It Happened on That Fateful Night

Fm B $\flat$ m Fm

1 It hap-pened on that fate-ful night When pow'rs of  
 2 Be - fore the bit - ter scene be - gan, He took the  
 3 "My bod - y, bro - ken for your sin, Re - ceive and  
 4 "Do this," he said, "till time shall end, Re - mem-ber -

Db B $\flat$ m7 Cm A $\flat$  Cm

earth and hell a - rose A - gainst the Son, our  
 bread, and blest and broke. What love through all his  
 eat as liv - ing food." He took the cup and  
 ing your dy - ing friend; Meet at my ta - ble

Db A $\flat$  Cm Fm Db B $\flat$ m Fm

God's de-light, And friends be - trayed him to his foes.  
 ac - tions ran! What won-drous words of love he spoke!  
 blest the wine: "Share this new tes - ta - ment, my blood."  
 and re - cord The full o - be - dience of your Lord."

5 O Lord, your feast we celebrate;  
 We show your death; we sing your name  
 Till you return, when we shall eat  
 The marriage supper of the Lamb.

## SCRIPTURE READING *(to be read responsively):*

### 1 John 4:7-21

L <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

C **<sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.**

L <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.

C **<sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.**

# HOMILY

# HYMN

## Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed?

AVON



ISAAC WATTS

HUGH WILSON



1. A - las! and did my Sav - iour bleed, And did my Sov - ereign die,
2. Was it for crimes that I have done He groaned up - on the tree?
3. Well might the sun in dark - ness hide, And shut his glo - ries in,
4. Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While His dear cross ap - pears;
5. But floods of grief can ne'er re - pay The debt of love I owe;



Did He de - vote that sa - cred head For sin - ners such as I?  
A - maz - ing pi - ty! grace un - known, And love\_\_ be - yond de - gree!  
When God, the might - y Mak - er, died For man, the crea - ture's sin!  
Dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, And melt\_\_ my eyes to tears.  
Here, Lord, I give my - self a - way; 'Tis all\_\_ that I can do. A - men.



# COMMUNION SERVICE

Narrator: Now the day of the Passover celebration arrived, when the Passover lamb was killed and eaten with the unleavened bread. Jesus sent Peter and John ahead to find a place to prepare their Passover meal. "Where do you want us to go?" they asked.

Pastor: As soon as you enter Jerusalem, you will see a man walking along carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him into the house he enters, and say to the man who lives there, "Our Teacher says for you to show us the guest room where he can eat the Passover meal with his disciples." He will take you upstairs to a large room all ready for us. That is the place. Go ahead and prepare the meal there.

Narrator: They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and prepared the Passover supper. Then Jesus and the others arrived, and at the proper time, all sat down together at the table; and he said,

Pastor: I have looked forward to this hour with deep longing, anxious to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. *(Luke 22:7-15)*

Choir: *"Did Jesus Weep for Me?"* Phelps/Wilson  
*(Solo – Kim Wittel)*

Narrator: And as they were sitting around the table eating, Jesus said,

Pastor: I solemnly declare that one of you will betray me, one of you who is here eating with me.

Narrator: A great sadness swept over them, and one by one they asked him (as we ask each of you to do now, "Is it I, Lord?")

**Congregation:** (Each member of the congregation, beginning with the pastor and the choir, says one after another) **Is it I, Lord?**

Pastor: It is one of you . . . eating with me now. I must die, as the prophets declared long ago; but, oh, the misery ahead for the man by whom I am betrayed. Oh, that he had never been born!

*(Mark 14:18-21)*

Choir: *“Lord Is It I?”*

Billy D. & Joseph M. Martin

Narrator: Then he took a loaf of bread; and when he had thanked God for it, he broke it apart, and gave it to them, saying:

Pastor: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. *(Luke 22:19)*

Narrator: Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it and gave it for all to drink, saying:

Pastor: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*(You will break off a piece of bread and give it to your neighbor with the words – “**The body and blood of Christ for you**”. Then dip your piece of bread in the chalice and pass the bread & chalice around the table.)*

Choir: *“The Meal”*

Russell Nagy

Pastor: My time has come; the glory of God will soon surround me – and God shall receive great praise because of all that happens to me. And God shall give me his own glory, and this so very soon. Dear, dear children, how brief are these moments before I must go away and leave you! Then, though you

search for me, you cannot come to me . . . And so I am giving a new commandment to you now – love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples. (John 13:31-35)

Choir: *“Beloved, Let Us Love One Another”* Roger C. Wilson

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Narrator: And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (Matthew 26:30)

Choir: *“At the Foot of the Cross”* Dengler

**PLEASE LEAVE THE ROOM IN COMPLETE SILENCE.**

## CORE VALUES OF THE NALC

### Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, “according to which all doctrines should and must be judged” (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

### Mission-Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples — in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world — must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

### Traditionally-Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

### Congregationally-Focused

We strive to be a church body that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.



# NALC

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