



Bethesda Presbyterian Church
Aberdeen, North Carolina
Founded 1788

*“Glorifying God by proclaiming the gospel of
Jesus Christ through love, faith, prayer, and service.”*

Maundy Thursday – Order of Worship

March 28, 2024 - 7:00 pm

Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Devoutly. Leave Gratefully. Serve Faithfully.

Greeting and Gathering Prayer

The Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Hustad

† Call to Worship

One: Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

All: Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

One: On this day, Christ, the Lamb of God, gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

All: On this day, Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

One: On this day, Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us.

All: On this day, Christ our God gave us this holy feast, that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim his holy sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection, and at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

†Hymn #218

Ah, Holy Jesus

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that 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 and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

†Sharing of the Peace

Congregational Response Hymn #555 *O Lamb of God*

*O, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us,
Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.*

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

New Testament Lesson

John 13:1-20

Anthem

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

John 13:21-35

Meditation

"Just as I have loved you..."

†Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Words of Invitation

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

Special Music During Communion *My Song is Love Unknown*

Prayer after Communion

†Hymn #221

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

†Benediction

Maundy Thursday

There are a variety of events on this day before Jesus was arrested that are commemorated in services of worship. These include the last meal together, which was probably a Passover meal, the institution of Eucharist or Communion, the betrayal by Judas (because of the exchange with Jesus at the meal), and Jesus praying in Gethsemane while the disciples fell asleep. There was an ominous feeling in the crowds as they began to draw back from Jesus, who spoke of commitment and servanthood. Even as Jesus and his disciples came together to share this meal, they already stood in the shadow of the cross. It was later that night, after the meal, as Jesus and His disciples were praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, that Jesus was arrested and taken to the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest.

There is some difference in the chronology of these events between the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) and John's account. In the Synoptics, this last meal was a Passover meal, observing the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt when death "passed over" the Hebrew homes as the 10th plague fell upon the Egyptians. In John's account, the Passover would not be celebrated until the next day. And while the Synoptics recount the institution of Communion during this final meal, John tells us about Jesus' washing the disciples' feet as a sign of servanthood.

Thursday of Holy Week is remembered as the time Jesus shared a final meal with those who had followed him. Traditionally, this day is known as Maundy Thursday. The term *Maundy* comes from the Latin word *mandatum* (from which we get our English word *mandate*), from a verb that means "to give," "to entrust," or "to order." The term is usually translated as "commandment" from John's account of this night. According to John, as Jesus and the disciples were eating their final meal together before Jesus' arrest, he washed the disciples' feet to illustrate humility and the spirit of servanthood. After they finished the meal, as they walked into the night toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught his disciples a "new" commandment: *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."* (John 13:34-35)

The color for Maundy Thursday is royal purple. The sharing of communion is the means by which most Christians observe this day. In some churches, the pastor or priest wash the feet of members of the congregation as part of the service.

Communion is especially linked to the theme of remembering. Jesus and his disciples followed the instructions in the Torah to remember God's acts of deliverance by sharing a Passover meal together. As we remember and share communion, Jesus asks that we also love one another.