

MAUNDY THURSDAY

The name is taken from the first words sung at the ceremony of the washing of the feet, "I give you a new commandment" (John 13:34); also from the commandment of Christ that we should imitate his loving humility in the washing of the feet (John 13:14-17). The term *mandatum* (maundy), therefore, was applied to the rite of the footwashing on this day.

The opening service of the Triduum is not inherently mournful. The penitential acts of Maundy Thursday have celebratory aspects as well: restoration through the bold declaration of pardon; the act of footwashing connoting humility and intimacy; the celebration of the Lord's Supper embodying the mystery of Christ's enduring redemptive presence. Maundy Thursday's acts provide the paradox of a celebratively somber and solemnly celebrative service.

What is startling if not jolting about the footwashing story in John is not the act of footwashing, but the identity of the servant who washed others' feet — Jesus, God-with-us, the least likely person. Following the footwashing, Jesus took on himself the humiliation of the cross, the ultimate symbol of his selfless love for others. ...

Though on this night we remember and celebrate the final supper Jesus shared with his disciples in the context of Passover, we are neither celebrating a Seder ("order of service"), nor reenacting the Last Supper, but sharing with our risen Lord a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. ...

The term "last supper" suggests that it was only one of many meals shared by Jesus and his disciples, and not *the* meal. The Eucharist is rooted not only in the Last Supper but also in Jesus' eating with sinners, and in his feeding the crowd with the loaves and fishes, and it foreshadows the meals after his resurrection. All together they constitute the multiple meanings of the Lord's Supper. To reduce the Lord's Supper to the Last Supper is to cut off the Sacrament from its eschatological significance (that is, as it relates to the unfolding of God's purpose and in the ultimate destiny of humankind and the world).

Stripping of the Church. The final act of this service is the evocative stripping of the worship space. This is most effectively done in absolute silence, and in an unhurried, orderly fashion. The stark, bare, unadorned church now reflects Jesus' abandonment during the night in Gethsemane. The visual aspect of the transformed worship space gives people a dramatic depiction of Christ's desolation. The church remains bare until the Easter Vigil when the process is reversed and the worship space is "dressed" again.

LOCUST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



How beautiful, O Lord, are the feet that
proclaim the gospel.
Make us ready to follow Christ:
in word and action,
in service and love,
so that all the world may know the one we love
and serve:
Jesus Christ the Lord.

John 13:1-17, 31b-35; Isaiah 52:7

March 29, 2018

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Locust Presbyterian Church

7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship

Prelude and Welcome

***Call and Worship** (from Psalm 116):

One: I love the LORD,

Many: because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

One: Because he inclined his ear to me,

Many: therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

One: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,

Many: I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

***Hymn: Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart**
#101 Presbyterian Hymnal

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others.

We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.

Assurance of Grace

Anthem: My Life, My Death, My Love **LPC Choir**
Written by Russell Maulding, Sue C. Smith; Russell Mauldin

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

New Testament Reading: John 13:1-7, 31b-35

Meditation

Rev. Evan Amo

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sacrament of Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Receiving the Gifts of Christ

***Hymn #101** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

***Depart in Silence**

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

7:00 am **Sunrise Service & Breakfast**
9:30 am **Choir Practice**
10:00 am **Sunday School**
11:00 am **Worship - Easter Service**
 Minister: Evan Amo

