

Maundy Thursday
Eve of the Passion of our Lord

April 9, 2020



Andrea Mantegna

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal,

C **have mercy upon us.**

P Have mercy on us, O God, in Your great goodness, according to the abundance of Your compassion blot out our offences. Lord, have mercy.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Against You only have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight. Christ, have mercy.

C Christ, have mercy.

P Purge us from our sin and we shall be clean; wash us and we shall be whiter than snow. Lord, have mercy.

C Lord, have mercy.

P May the Father forgive us by the death of His Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days.

C Amen.

P Lutherans have traditionally called this day Maundy Thursday. The word Maundy comes from the Latin "Mandatum," which means "commandment."

P At the Last Supper Jesus said to the Disciples and to us: "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (John 13:34, RSV).

P Jesus also "commands" us to celebrate the special meal He gave, the Lord's Supper. If you remember, at that first Maundy or Holy Thursday Jesus and His Disciples were eating the Passover Meal, a meal that celebrated how God freed His people who were enslaved in Egypt.

P Jesus gave us a new meal to help us celebrate our freedom from sin, death and the devil which came through His, Jesus', death and resurrection.

P Since this year, we are unable to physically be together and celebrate the meal of our Lord tonight our focus will be on the events that took place after the meal was finished.

P Those events that took place in the Garden of Gethsemane, which mark the beginning of the Passion of our Lord.

P Our service will focus on the stages that summarize the events and feelings of Jesus in the Garden.

P They are

- 1) The Garden
- 2) Jesus' Prayer
- 3) Jesus' Anguish
- 4) The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

p What I am going to share with you is more of a summary of the accounts of the Lord's passion in the Garden of Gethsemane as recorded in the four Gospels.

p Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal,

C have mercy upon us.

P After the meal was over, they sang a hymn as they crossed the brook Kidron to where there was a garden called Gethsemane. Judas, who would soon betray Jesus, knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His disciples.

P According to tradition, one of the Psalms that was sang was Psalm 118.

C 1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

3 Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

4 Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

5 Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free.

7 The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

14 The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

17 I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

29 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

The Garden

P Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal,

C **have mercy upon us.**

P As Jesus and his disciples approached Gethsemane, Jesus asked most of the disciples to wait while he proceeded further into the garden with Peter, James, and John.

P The name Gethsemane means "oil press." Seeing that it was located on the Mount of Olives, this area was probably once used for the growing and processing of olives. Luke mentions that Jesus commonly came here (Luke 21:37; John 18:2).

P We should not lose sight of the significance that Jesus' suffering began in a garden - the garden of Gethsemane. It was in another garden - the garden of Eden where sin came. Throughout Scripture there are reminders of Garden of Eden and sin.

P Let us pray: Lord Jesu Christ, this night You spent in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Alone You experienced the depths of sin and hell to offer life and salvation. I pray that You would stand by my side when I face temptation and allow me to experience victory. In Your holy name, I pray. Amen.

Jesus Prays

P Holy God, Holy and Immortal, Holy and Almighty

C **have mercy upon us and save us!**

P The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

P Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me”
(Psalm 50:15).

P Alone now with his closest disciples, Jesus revealed the anguish he was feeling. The wording is that he sorrowed to point of nearly being overwhelmed with grief. It crushed him nearly to death.

P He asked the three to watch over him while He prayed and told them to pray in the meantime that they would not be tempted. Going a bit further, about a stone’s throw, He fell on His face and prayed that this tribulation might be taken away, but knowing it could not, He submitted Himself to God’s will.

P Jesus knew that God could accomplish anything, including removing the need for His death. His reference to this “cup” is alluding to the cup of God’s wrath (Psalm 75:8; Isaiah 51:17).

P The Heavenly Father answers Jesus’ prayer by sending an angel to strengthen Him. His trial was not removed, but He was given the encouragement necessary to face the trial that was upon Him.

 Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. yet not my will, but yours be done.”

P Let us pray: Gracious Father, when evil darkens my world, give me the light of Jesus. When despair numbs my soul, give me hope. When I stumble and fall, lift me up. When doubts assail me, give me faith. When nothing seems sure, give me trust. When ideals fade, give me a vision. When I lose my way, be though My guide. In all things, give me the presence of the Holy Spirit so that I may remain close to You. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

Anguish

P Holy God, Holy and Immortal, Holy and Almighty
C **have mercy upon us and save us!**

P Could you not watch and prayer one hour?

P When Jesus returned to the disciples, He scolded them, Peter in particular, for not being able to watch for one hour. Luke mentions that their sorrow had worn them out and made them sleepy. Waking them, Jesus told them to watch and pray that they aren't led into temptation. He understands they want to be obedient, but their bodies are not as strong as their will.

P Peter was probably the focus for this rebuke because of his earlier claim that he would never forsake the Lord (Mark 14:29). The warning is that if he could not resist the temptation to sleep now, how will he stand in the time of real trial.

P In peace I will both lie down and sleep. None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.

P Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.

P Jesus returns to pray in greater earnestness. Luke mentions He began to sweat and drops fell like blood to the ground. And when He returned, He found the disciples asleep again, for Matthew mentions they were unable to keep their eyes open. Again He awakens them and they had no excuse to offer for their laxness.

P For a third time, Jesus returns to pray. On his third return, He awakens them again with a warning. While they were sleeping, the enemy was not sleeping. The time for betrayal had come and it was time to meet the betrayer.

The arrival of the Betrayer

P Holy God, Holy and Immortal, Holy and Almighty,
C **have mercy upon us and save us!**

P Lord Jesus, may I not betray you with a kiss as Judas did; but as the thief, let me confess Your name. Lord, remember me in Thy kingdom.

P Even as He, Jesus, warned them, Judas came up to them leading a mob composed of Roman soldiers, temple guards, chief priests, and elders carrying swords and clubs.

P Judas had told them that whomever he kissed would be the one they should grab. Remember this is in the dark of the night, well after midnight, likely close to 3 am, so Jesus would not be easily recognized even with the torches and lanterns they were carrying.

P Judas knew where to find Jesus at this hour because Jesus was in the habit of spending the night in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 21:37; 22:39).

P Approaching Jesus, Judas called out, "Hail Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus scolds him for using a kiss, a greeting of love, as a means of betraying him, but then tells him to do what he came to do. Turning to the mob with Judas besides him, Jesus asked whom they were seeking.

P When they answered, "Jesus of Nazareth," Jesus responded, "I am He." Immediately we are told that the crowds seemed to step back and perhaps even fell down. Literally, every knee bowed at the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:10). The power Jesus displayed over even His enemies proved who was actually in charge of this situation.

P Jesus again asked who they were seeking and they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Again he stated that he was "I am." He then told the mob to let the disciples go. This was to keep the prophecy that no disciple given to him would be lost.

P The three disciples asked Jesus if they should strike in defense. Peter, however, didn't wait for an answer but took the sword that he had and managed to severely cut the ear of one of servants that had come to arrest Jesus.

- P Even as He is being arrested, Jesus took time to heal the man Peter had injured and to scold Peter for his actions.
- P Jesus reminds His servants that violence would only lead to more violence. Jesus' mission was to offer His life as the sacrifice for sin. If not, Jesus informed the crowd that He could ask the Father and receive more than twelve legions of angels, more than 72, 000, an exceedingly large number.
- P Jesus then turned to the mob and asked why they came with weapons to arrest Him as if He was a threat! He was in the temple every day teaching and they didn't bother arresting Him then. There was no need for this dramatics. Nevertheless, it was their moment and Satan's moment, so he was permitting it.
- P Seeing their Lord arrested, all the disciples fled for safety. Mark alone mentions that a young man, probably awakened from sleep by the mob, had thrown a linen sheet around him and attempted to follow, but the Roman soldiers grabbed him. In order to escape he had to leave the sheet behind and fled naked from the crowd. Perhaps the purpose in mentioning this strange incident is a reminder that the mob who came to arrest Jesus intended upon arresting any and all who were there. Such was the price for being a follower of Jesus.
- P Let us pray: Lord Jesus, Your disciple Judas betrayed You for 30 pieces of silver. For far less, have I betrayed You. I have kept my faith hidden, I have doubted Your goodness and presence. I have compromised my love for You so that I could fit in and be accepted. I have compromised Your principles for living. Lord Jesus, as the father accepted his Prodigal son, so accept me, Your prodigal child. Let me know the joy of Your forgiveness. Give me a stronger faith so that I may stand bold in confessing You as my Lord and Savior. In Your name, I pray. Amen.

The Message

The Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

P: Christ has humbled Himself and became obedient unto death,

C: even death on a cross.

P May God, Who has moved us to make this commitment, give us grace to keep it to the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+++ +++ +++

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

6905 Greenbelt Road Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Phone: (301) 345-5111 Email: myholycross@verizon.net

Website: www.myholycross.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/holycrossgreenbelt