

## ***The Biblical Practice of Close Communion***

Through the apostle Paul, God speaks of his desire for all of us to reach perfect unity (Ephesians 4:12,13). We members of St. John Congregation certainly share his desire. We seek to express that unity – with our current members, with those who desire membership, and also with Christians around the world.

Scripture speaks of two different types of unity. First, Christ has reconciled every single one of us to God through his perfect life and death on our behalf. Even now, God considers us saints and heirs of heaven, clothed with Christ's righteousness. You might think of this as a "vertical" unity – purely between the individual and his or her God. Through Christ, peace with God has been restored. Then, there's also an outward and public unity – a "horizontal" unity – as fellow saints worship side-by-side. The celebration of Holy Communion is guided by both types.

**For communion to be celebrated in a beneficial way, those attending will come united with their God and also with their fellow-communicants. The former is established by repentance – a sorrow over sin and a trust in God's forgiveness – that he himself produces. It's a matter of the heart. The latter is established by the outward confession of what each of us believes. It's a matter of the mouth.**

We do not presume to look into the heart, for only God is able to do that. We do, however, seek to establish outward unity by studying God's Word together so that we share a common confession. Our congregation offers a Bible study course that's designed for just that purpose.

**And so, out of love for God and his Word, we kindly ask that all visitors speak with the pastor about how we can establish that outward unity prior to your attending Holy Communion here at St. John. We desire to make that goal a priority, so that you may receive the Sacrament as soon as possible.**

May God bless your hearing of the Word today as he reminds you of his full and free forgiveness in Christ!

# Maundy Thursday Worship

## April 13, 2017



## Repent: Turn to Jesus

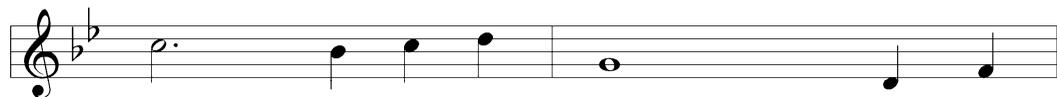
3/01	Ash Wednesday	Repent: Turn to Jesus and Not to Yourself
3/08	Midweek 2	Repent: Turn to Jesus; Do Not Turn Away
3/15	Midweek 3	Repent: Turn to Jesus; He Holds the Key to Heaven
3/22	Midweek 4	Repent: Turn to Jesus; He Longs to Forgive You
3/29	Midweek 5	Repent: Turn to Jesus; He Changes Your Life
4/05	Midweek 6	Repent: Turn to Jesus When You Face Temptations
4/13	Maundy Thursday	Repent: Turn to Jesus and Receive a Special Assurance of Your Forgiveness
4/14	Good Friday	Repent: Turn to Jesus; He and He Alone Finished Your Salvation
4/16	Easter Sunday	Repent: Turn to Jesus for Resurrection and Life

Just as Ash Wednesday begins Lent, so Maundy Thursday marks the end of Lent proper and the beginning of the Three Days of Christendom (the Triduum). The word "maundy" is derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, the first word of the Latin phrase, "*Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos*" ("A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you"), the statement used by Jesus in John's gospel to explain the significance of washing the disciples' feet. Maundy Thursday is also the night that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper with the words, "Do this in remembrance of me." As a way to remember that night, tonight's worship includes the Stripping of the Altar. In this solemn ceremony all the worship articles and adornments are removed from the altar. This symbolizes both the suspension of Holy Communion, which isn't generally celebrated on Good Friday, and the abandonment and humiliation of Jesus Christ. The liturgy ends in solemnity; the congregation hears no benediction...yet. Rather, the Triduum's services flow into one another as the congregation disperses in solemnity to reassemble for Good Friday.

Opening Hymn..... "When You Woke That Thursday Morning" (CWS 717)



1 When you woke that Thurs-day morn - ing, Sav - ior,  
 2 Nev - er so a - lone and lone - ly, long - ing  
 3 What was there that you could give them that would  
 4 One in faith, in love u - nit - ed, all one  
 5 One day all the Church will cap - ture that bright



Teach - er, faith - ful Friend, Thoughts of  
 with tor - ment - ed heart To be  
 nev - er be out - spent, What great  
 bod - y, you the head, When we  
 vis - ion glo - ri - ous, And your



self and safe - ty scorn - ing, know - ing  
 with your dear ones on - ly for a  
 gift that would out - live them, what last  
 meet, by you in - vit - ed, you are  
 saints will know the rap - ture that your

Stripping of the Altar

Hymn..... "The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord" (CW 135)

During the hymn, the communion vessels and paraments are removed in token of the Lord's abandonment by his disciples and in preparation for Good Friday.

Psalm ..... Psalm 88

The congregation sings the refrain at the beginning, and as indicated after each set of verses.



What won-drous love is this, O my soul!

O LORD, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before you. May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave. I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like a man without strength. I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care. **[Refrain]**

You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths. Your wrath lies heavily upon me; you have overwhelmed me with all your waves. You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them. I am confined and cannot escape; my eyes are dim with grief. **[Refrain]**

I call to you, O LORD, every day; I spread out my hands to you. Do you show your wonders to the dead? Do those who are dead rise up and praise you? Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction? Are your wonders known in the place of darkness, or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion? But I cry to you for help, O LORD; in the morning my prayer comes before you. Why, O LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me? **[Refrain]**

From my youth I have been afflicted and close to death; I have suffered your terrors and am in despair. Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me. All day long they surround me like a flood; they completely engulfed me. You have taken my companions and loved ones from me; the darkness is my closest friend. **[Refrain]**

## Words of Institution

*Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

*Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." The peace of the Lord be with you always.*



C: A - men.

## O Christ, Lamb of God.....(Agnus Dei)



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.

## Distribution

*If you're visiting with us this evening, please review and respect our practice of "close communion" as it's explained in detail on the back cover of the bulletin.*



how the day would end; Lamb of  
qui - et hour a - part; Sin - less  
will and tes - ta - ment? "Show me  
with us, as you said. One with  
heart de - sired for us, When the



God, fore - told for ag - es, now at last the  
Lamb and fall - en crea - tures, one last pas - chal  
and the world you love me, know me as the  
you and one an - oth - er in a u - ni -  
longed - for peace and un - ion of the great - est



hour had come When but One could pay sin's  
meal to eat, One last les - son as their  
Lamb of God; Do this in re - mem - brance  
ty sub - lime, See in us your sis - ter,  
and the least Meet in joy - ous, blest com -



wag - es: you as - sumed their dread - ful sum.  
teach - er, wash - ing your dis - ci - ples' feet.  
of me, eat this bod - y, drink this blood."  
broth - er, one in ev - 'ry place and time.  
mun - ion in your nev - er - end - ing feast.

*The hymn writer Jaroslav Vajda vividly recounts the events of Maundy Thursday as they may have looked from the perspective of our Savior.*

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Tune: MAUNDY (87 87 D) David A. Schack, b. 1947 © 1992 David A. Schack. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**Sermon..... 1 Corinthians 11:23-28 (EHV)**

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same way, after the meal, he also took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. <sup>27</sup>Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the Lord's body and blood. <sup>28</sup>Instead, let a person examine himself and after doing so, let him eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

**Instruction for the End of Lent**

*In this Lenten season we've heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We've also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil – all that keeps us from loving God and one another. 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 family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus 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.*

*In Holy Communion 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 drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.*

**Turn to Jesus – and Receive a Special Assurance of Your Forgiveness.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*



**C: It is good and right so to do.**

*It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:*

**Holy, Holy, Holy..... (Sanctus)**



**C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:**



**heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -**



**na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.**



**Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who**



**comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -**



**na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.**

## Prayer for All People

*To all nations grant unity, peace, and concord, and to all people give clothing, food, and shelter. Grant us abundant harvests, strength and skill to conserve the resources of the earth, and wisdom to use them well. Enlighten with your Spirit all who teach and all who learn. Come to the help of all who are in danger, necessity, and trouble; protect all who travel by land, air, or water; and show your pity on all prisoners and captives. Strengthen and preserve all women who are in childbirth and all young children, and comfort the aged, the bereaved, and the lonely. Defend and provide for the widowed and the orphaned, the refugees and the homeless, the unemployed, and all who are desolate and oppressed. Heal those who are sick in body or mind, and give skill and compassion to all who care for them. Grant us true repentance, forgive our sins, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your Holy Word.*

**Hear us, good Lord.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## The Sacrament

### Preface

*The Lord be with you.*



**C: And al - so with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*



**C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.**

## Confession and Absolution

*Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father,**

**I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.**

**In what I have done and left undone,**

**I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.**

**I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.**

**For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**

**I am truly sorry for my sins.**

**I repent of them.**

**I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

***Silence for meditation***

*Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.*

**Cleanse me from my sins.**

**Release me from my guilt.**

**Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

*The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light.*

*Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son [✠] and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

### Exhortation

*Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another, and extend to each other the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

***The congregation extends the peace of Christ by turning to each other and saying:***

**Peace be with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

*Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on the cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this Sacrament to our eternal good, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

**First Lesson ..... Exodus 12:1-14**

**Duet.....“Alone”**

*Deb Schaeuble and Jeremy Uecker; Accompaniment: Florence Brandt-Wagner*

**Second Lesson ..... 1 Corinthians 11:23-28**

**Gospel Lesson ..... John 13:1-15,34**

**Hymn of the Day.....“Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior” (CW 313:1,2,6-8)**

**Thank-Offering**

**The Great Litany**

***Prayer of Approach to God***

*O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide, holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God,*

**Have mercy on us.**

***Prayer for Deliverance***

*Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses nor the offenses of our forebears. Spare us, good Lord; spare your people, whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.*

**Spare us, good Lord.**

*From all spiritual blindness; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all lack of charity, from all deadly sin and from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil, from all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart and contempt for your Word and your will, from earthquake and tempest; from drought, fire, and flood; from civil strife and violence; from war and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,*

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

***Prayer Recalling Christ’s Saving Work***

*By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and by your proclamation of the kingdom, by your bloody sweat and bitter grief, by your cross and suffering, and by your precious death and burial, by your mighty resurrection, by your glorious ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, in our times of trouble, in our times of prosperity, in the hour of death, and on the day of judgment,*

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

*Receive our prayers, O Lord our God.*

**Hear us, good Lord.**

***Prayer for the Church***

*Govern and direct your holy Church, fill it with love and truth, and grant it that unity which is according to your will. Enlighten all ministers with true knowledge and understanding of your Word, that by their preaching and living they may declare it clearly and show its truth. Encourage and prosper your servants who spread the gospel in all the world, and send out laborers into the harvest. Bless and keep your people, that all may find and follow their true vocation and ministry. Give us hearts to love and revere you, that we may diligently live according to your commandments. To all your people, give grace to hear and receive your Word and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit. Strengthen those who stand firm in the faith, encourage the fainthearted, raise up those who fall, and finally give us the victory.*

**Hear us, good Lord.**

***Prayer for Our Country***

*Rule the hearts of your servants, the president of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth. Bless and defend all who strive for our safety and protection, and shield them in all dangers and adversities. Grant wisdom and insight to those who govern us and to judges and magistrates the grace to execute justice with mercy.*

**Hear us, good Lord.**