

A Simple Maundy Thursday Service

Chalmers Presbyterian Church 29 March 2018 7:00 p.m.

We gather to mark the last day of the earthly life of Jesus. After the story is read, sing the printed refrain each time, using the familiar music of "Were you there when they crucified my Lord," and spend a few moments in silent reflection.

Leader: This is the day,

All: that Christ gathered with his disciples in an upper room.

Leader: This is the day,

All: that Christ shared a meal as a sign of his great love.

Leader: This is the day,

All: that Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet and showed us how to serve others.

Matthew 26:17-25—The Passover with His Disciples

Were you there when he gathered with his friends?

Were you there when he gathered with his friends?

O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when he gathered with his friends?

(silence)

Matthew 26:26-30—The Lord's Supper

Were you there when he gave them bread and wine?

..... When he gave them bread and wine?
(silence)



Prayer: (unison)

Creator of heaven and earth, you spoke and order emerged from chaos, creation from the formless void, and light from darkness. You formed us in your image and called us to be your people. You spoke words of truth and law and created us a community. Through the prophets you called us to justice and peace. In the fullness of time your word became flesh and lived among us, and in him we saw your full glory. He shared our human nature; he lived and died as one of us. He taught those who sought to follow his way; he healed the sick, ate and drank with outcasts, cured the blind, and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom. We give you thanks for Christ, for the gift of your love and grace. Amen.

Remembering the story:

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

After supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

Prayer:

Holy God, on this night Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. Write this commandment on our hearts and strengthen us in service, in unity and in love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



John 13 - Jesus Washes the Feet of His Disciples

Were you there when he knelt and washed their feet?

..... **When he knelt and washed their feet?**
(silence)

Leader: On the night of his arrest, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment and set an example for them by washing their feet. In this act of service, he reminded them to care for and serve one another.

Remember your baptism and remember you are called to serve humbly as Christ has served us.

Matthew 26:36-45 - In Gethsemane

Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?

..... **When he knelt and prayed to God?**
(silence)

Matthew 26:47-56 - The Betrayal and Arrest

Were you there when his friends betrayed and ran?

..... **When his friends betrayed and ran?**
(silence)

The Benediction

At the conclusion of the service, the congregation leaves in silence.

A Prayer for Lent

(based on an ancient prayer of the church)

Give me, O God, a steadfast heart,
which will not be drawn down
by unworthy distractions;
Give me a courageous heart,
which will not be worn out by trials;
Give me a pure heart,
which no trivial matter may divert.
Give me understanding to know you,
diligence to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
and faithfulness that will finally
embrace you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

