

Holy Thursday

Welcome

Jesus gathers his friends for a meal when life as they know it is ending. That Supper is a meal of memory and hope: the people pass over, from death to life, from slavery to a promise of freedom. It is a meal of wondrous love and amazing grace, first offered in a home and then as the church expanded, in sanctuaries.

Blessing over the Meal

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Unison: Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Meal

Prayer

“Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Exodus 12:1-14 — Taylor White

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Hymn: What Wondrous Love is This Vs 1-2

Reading from the Good News — John 13.3—17

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was

tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father.

Homily — This is How You Shall Eat It — Rev. Johan Dodge

Special Music — Jesu Jesu — Jennifer Scoullar

Hand washing

Hand washing is an ancient human gesture embedded in daily practice. It can now be a matter of life and death during a time of contagion. We need literal as well as spiritual cleansing in these times. Psalm 26 was once used sung by those who gathered in Jerusalem. Centuries later it was recited by priests preparing to preside in the sacrament of the bread of life. They would pray these words in silence while preparing by washing their hands: I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds. O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides. Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with the bloodthirsty, those in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes. - Psalm 26: 6-10 — These ancient words include the washing, the coming to the altar, songs of praise, and testimonies to God’s redemptive work. There is a plea for personal safety and a fierce call for justice, all connected to washing and the sacrament of holy communion.

Closing Hymn — Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Blessing

Almighty and eternal God, we ask that on this Holy Thursday, you grant us the grace of perseverance in the face of suffering and persecution. Give us the strength to endure and the courage to stand firm in our faith, no matter what the cost. Help us to remain firm in our convictions, and be mindful of the example of your Son, Jesus Christ, who endured the ultimate suffering and persecution for our salvation. We humbly ask that you grant us this grace so that we may remain strong in the face of adversity, and remain true to our faith no matter what. Amen.

What Wondrous Love Is This

Transcribed and Adapted by David Albulario for Leisure World Community Church, Seal Beach, California

Harmony by
Paul J. Christiansen

Traditional Folk Hymn

What won - drous love it this, — O my soul, O my

soul, what — won - drous love is this, — O my soul!

What — won - drous love is this — that — caused the Lord of
What — won - drous love is this, — that — caused the Lord of

bliss — to — send this pre - cious hope — for my soul, — for my
life — to — lay a - side his crown — for my soul, — for my

soul, — to — send this pre - cious hope — for my soul.
soul, — to — lay a - side his crown — for my soul.