

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

**April 1, 2021 at 7 p.m.
on Facebook **Live****

**or on our church website
at westminsterakron.org**

This evening, we will be celebrating The Sacrament of Holy Communion together. Please have your bread and juice nearby and be prepared to partake at the appropriate time.

If you are joining us on Facebook Live, then you can find a copy of today's bulletin on our church website at westminsterakron.org.

The Maundy Thursday service is one of endings and beginnings. What was begun on Ash Wednesday is brought to a close here today. What begins today does not end until the resurrection of Easter. It is the ancient Triduum, "The Three Sacred Days," which lead us to Easter: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

The theme is love, our Savior's love for us, expressed in the washing of the disciples' feet, in giving himself in bread and wine, in dying upon the cross. An invitation to confession is given. The focus is on forgiveness. On Ash Wednesday, we began Lent with a major act of confession.

The lessons of love are read. A new command derives from it: "Love one another." A song and a sign of love goes with it. The prayers are said. The table is made ready. The time of the Lord's Supper arrives, and our Lord is revealed in bread and wine as once he "revealed himself to his disciples." It is a solemn moment, but we cannot linger here. Nor could the Lord. His betrayal was imminent.

Before we know it, the markings of betrayal are seen before us. The chancel is stripped bare. Christ is stripped of his power and glory. Good Friday is inescapable. The powers of darkness work upon him. In silence, we depart without benediction. The Three Sacred Days continue with the Good Friday service tomorrow at noon via Facebook Live.

Voluntary

O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded

Arr. Phillip Jonson

Call to Worship

Zack Troyer

This is a day of remembrance for us.

We lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Throughout the generations, we have received and handed on to others what the Lord has given to us: water for washing; the towel of service;

the bread of his body; the cup of the new covenant; proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes again.

Hymn 101

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a
 Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,
 count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Call to Confession

Even among Jesus' closest disciples, not all were clean. On this night of all nights, we confess the ways we disappoint, deny, and even betray Jesus, our Teacher and Lord. Our confession of sin is made in the sure knowledge that Jesus is able to wash us in forgiveness and love.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you have called us to serve others as Christ has served us. We confess that we have not followed Christ's example as fully or as often as we should. We turn away from people in need. True humility eludes us, and we hide our own vulnerability before others. You have commanded us to love one another as you have loved us. We confess that we do not love so generously. Gathered on this Holy Thursday, we confess that we are capable of denying and betraying you and one another, no less than the first disciples. Forgive us, merciful God, and cleanse us of all our sin; then guide our feet to walk with you always. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Disciples of Christ, having loved his own who were in the world, Jesus loved them to the end. Jesus knows us fully and offers love and forgiveness unconditionally. In gratitude for the grace given to us, and as a witness to our faith in Christ, we will love one another.

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that we may see the light of your Word in the darkness of our lives. And seeing, may we understand; understanding, may we do all that you ask. In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

New Testament

1 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4 got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5 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. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 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." 11 For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are

clean."12 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?

13 You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am.

14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16 Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.

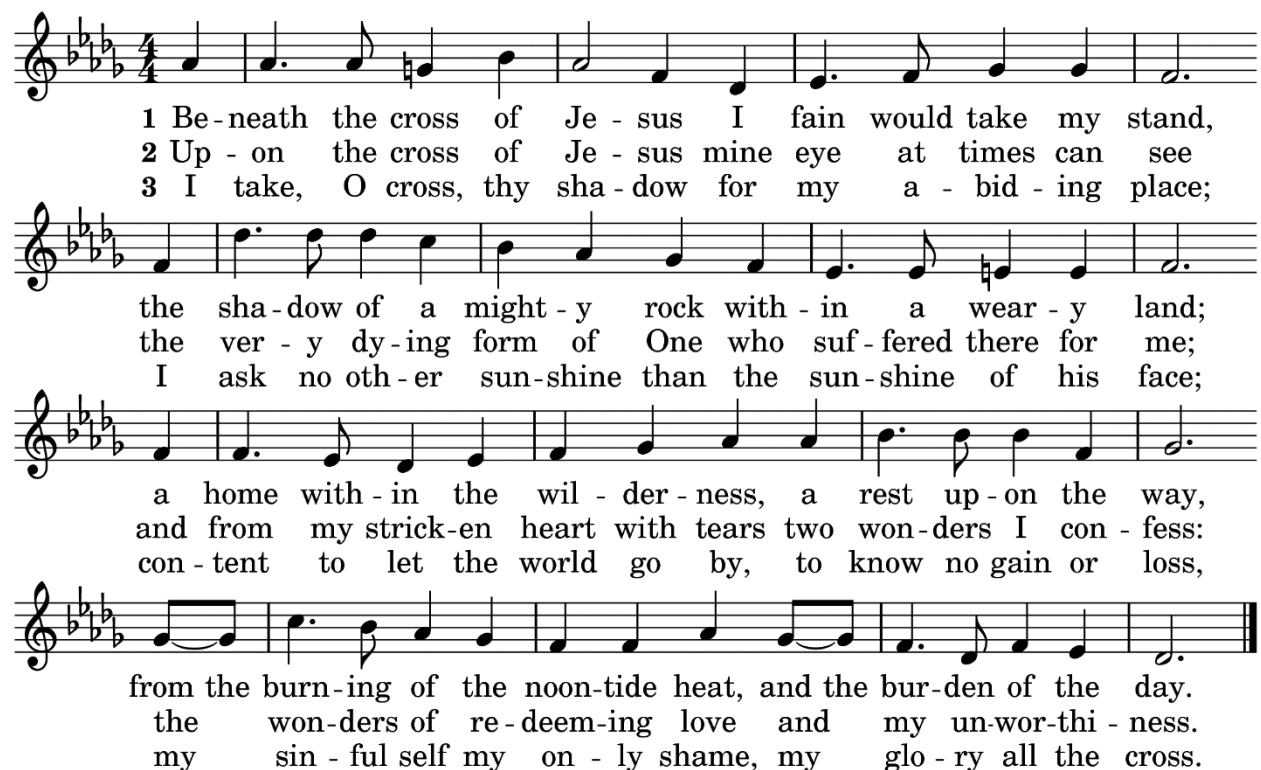
17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Hymn 92

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ST. CHRISTOPHER



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, thy sha - dow for my a - bid - ing place;
the sha - dow of a might - y rock with - in a wear - y land;
the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;
a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,
from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

New Testament

23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in

remembrance of me." 25 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Homily

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

The pulpit is shrouded.

Communion in silence

The retable is shrouded.

Prayers of Intercession

God of love, during Holy Week, we give you thanks for this night Jesus shared with his disciples.

Between the public parade and the public charade is this intimate hour.

Though even now we do not fully understand, we long to follow his example: to serve as he served, to love as he loved.

Jesus promised that if we know these things and do them, we will be blessed.

Help us, then, to know and to do all that Jesus taught.

Though we betray and deny, we still come seeking a blessing, for this much we do know: we cannot live unless you bless us.

Amen.

The baptismal font is shrouded.

Hymn 102

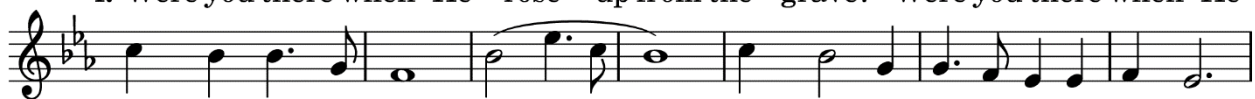
Were You There? Verses 1-3

AFRICAN-AMERICAN

Verse 3 will be sung unaccompanied.

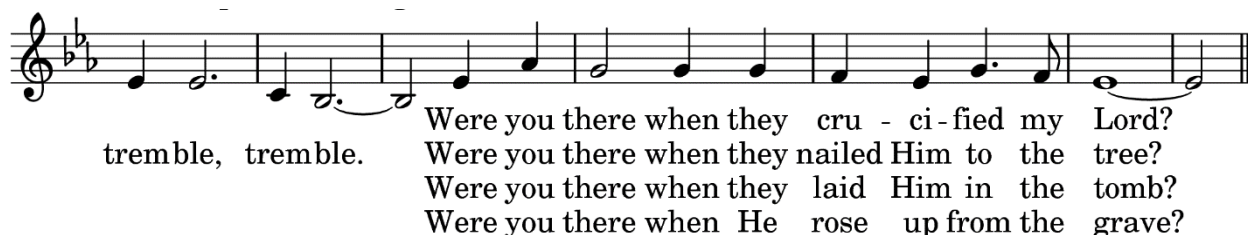


1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there when they
2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you there when they
3. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you there when they
- *4. Were you there when He rose up from the grave? Were you there when He



cru - ci - fied my Lord?
nailed Him to the tree? Oh!
laid Him in the tomb?
rose up from the grave?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble,



The carillon will ring 33 times remembering each year of Christ's life on earth. There will be no benediction or postlude. The service concludes in reflective silence. You are invited to return for Good Friday and Easter services, each on Facebook Live.

Holy Week Calendar 2021 on Facebook Live

Good Friday, April 2

12:00 pm Worship Service on Facebook Live

Easter Sunday, April 4

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary

10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live
with Communion

1:00 pm First Sunday Food Collection

The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. Staff schedule in the office: **Monday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Tuesday** - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Debby Evrard, Claudine Schooley, and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley.



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