

# New Hope Lutheran Church

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## Pastors:

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## April 1, 2021 Maundy Thursday

### Coming Events

**All services have been cancelled until April 18, 2021 due to COVID-19.**

Apr 4 10:00am Bilingual Easter Service **Zoom**  
Apr 6 1:00pm Zoom Raamatupiiri

**Apr 18** 10:00am Messu † **Voima Hall**  
1:00pm Annual Meeting  
**Regent St, Voima Hall & Zoom**  
2:00pm Worship Service **Regent St**

**In our prayers** Fred, Esme, Martha.

### Prayer of the day

O God, your love was embodied in Jesus Christ, who washed the disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal: wash us from the stain of sin, so that, in hours of danger, we may not fail, but follow your Son through every trial, and praise him always as Lord and Christ, to whom be glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### Introduction

*The Thursday of Holy Week is remembered as the time Jesus ate a final meal together with the men who had followed him for so long. We do not have to understand the theology of the event to remember and celebrate in worship what Jesus did and taught and modelled for us, what God was doing in Jesus the Christ. Traditionally in the Christian Church, this day is known as Maundy Thursday. The term Maundy comes from the Latin word mandatum (from which we get our English word mandate), from a verb that means "to give," "to entrust," or "to order." The term is usually translated "commandment," from John's account of this Thursday night. According to the Fourth Gospel, as Jesus and the Disciples were eating their final meal together before Jesus' arrest, he washed the disciples' feet to illustrate humility and the spirit of servanthood. After they had finished the meal, as they walked into the night toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught his disciples a "new" commandment that was not really new (John 13:34-35): A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, you also ought to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. In some church traditions all of the altar coverings and decorations are removed after Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. Psalm 22 is sometimes either read or sung while the altar paraments are being removed. Since the altar in these traditions symbolize the Christ, the "stripping of the altar" symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers prior to his crucifixion. This, like the darkness often incorporated into a Good Friday service, represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life and hope that is to come on Resurrection Day.*

### Gathering

In the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus, who on this night shared a final meal with his friends - I bid you a warm welcome. In spite of our isolation, let this be a time of sharing; of sharing in the events of that night, the sharing of our mutual faith food and of sharing in the love we have for each other and for our Lord Jesus Christ. Though we are physically separate and scattered, and acknowledge our

grief in our separation, we are expectant that the Holy Spirit will bring our hearts and minds close together this evening.

### Confession & forgiveness

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith:  
Lord Jesus, you are the firstborn of the dead; Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you bore our sins in your body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you call us to deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow you; Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
We have turned our hearts to God in repentance and our sins are laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ. In the name of the living God, may we know with our hearts and minds that our sins are forgiven. We receive God's mercy and take hold of our forgiveness. Lead us, Holy Spirit, to walk again in the light of Christ. Amen.

**Hymn** Our Father We Have Wandered (606)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MltNg6vGV7g>

### LESSONS

#### Exodus 12:1-14

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, <sup>2</sup>"This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb<sup>[a]</sup> for his family, one for each household. <sup>4</sup>If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. <sup>5</sup>The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. <sup>6</sup>Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. <sup>7</sup>Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. <sup>8</sup>That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in

water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. <sup>10</sup> Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. <sup>11</sup> This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover. <sup>12</sup> "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. <sup>13</sup> The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. <sup>14</sup> "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance.

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night 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 supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### **John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

<sup>1</sup> It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup> "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part

with me." <sup>9</sup> "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. <sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

<sup>31</sup> Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, <sup>33</sup> God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. <sup>34</sup> "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. <sup>35</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>36</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

## **Sermon "This Is No Prank"**

Today is quite often referred to as "April Fools Day", a time to pull pranks on others, generally by attempting to get them to believe something that goes against everything they know. And, if we can get them to believe the lie, we then yell out "April Fools!"

It might seem to us that Jesus is attempting to pull such an April Fools stunt on his disciples. In their minds, they all feel that masters are greater than servants, and the ones who send messages are greater than the messenger. Jesus however, is telling them that this isn't so. And to prove that he isn't pulling a prank, Jesus washes their feet for them, a job usually left for the lowest of servants, certainly not the master.

In doing this, Jesus is making a point. The kingdom of God is a far cry from the kingdoms of this earth and to make it in the eternal kingdom of God you need to know what is expected of you. Love one another. Be a servant to others regardless of who they are. This is Jesus' example and command to us.

So often we want to counter such statements with words that essentially say: *what's in it for me? What do I get out of this?*

For an answer to that, let's take a look at the Old Testament Lesson. It too might almost feel like an April Fools prank that Moses and Aaron are playing on the Israelites. Each family is to slaughter a lamb for a meal and put some of the blood on the doorframes of their houses. It's a rather topsy turvy idea that doesn't make sense. For those not familiar with the story, they might be tempted to feel that the next morning Moses and Aaron will be running through the streets joyfully yelling "April Fools!" Instead, the life of the firstborn of each house was spared by death.

So if you are still curious as to what advantage we might have participating in the topsy turvy world of the kingdom of God, where masters are servants and loving others is the greatest commandment, consider how we are spared from death by following such commands. We also might want to ask: who really is the April Fool?

**Hymn** Where Charity and Love Prevail (359)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7vSCobqAEI>

## **Prayers**

Merciful God, on this, the night he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet. As we commit ourselves to following his example of love and service, teach us humility. God of grace, hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one. As we grieve for the divisions in the church, and the world, unite us. God of grace, hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus prayed for those who would come to believe through the disciples' message. As we take up the mission of the church, renew our zeal. God of grace, hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus commanded his friends to love, but he suffered rejection himself. As we open our hearts to the rejected and the unloved, fill us with your love. God of grace, hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus reminded his people that, if the world hated them, it had hated him first. As we face our own fears, we pray for those who are persecuted for their faith; give us your peace. God of grace, hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus loved his friends to the very end. As we open our hearts to all who face darkness tonight, we pray for the sick, those who mourn, those trapped by violence, addiction, or pain: give healing and hope. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Faithful God, these are the prayers of your Church. We offer them trusting and hoping in you. Hear and help us, challenge and change us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

*Many churches at the end of the Maundy Thursday service traditionally strip the Altar and taking out of the furnishings. This tradition has evolved into a ceremony of identification with the lonely desolation of our Lord in the garden of Gethsemane. During the Stripping of the Altar it is traditional to read Psalm 22. This psalm is the one, which our Lord quoted on the cross. Let us follow in this tradition by reading Psalm 22*

<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?

<sup>2</sup> My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup> To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

<sup>6</sup> But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

<sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

<sup>8</sup> "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

<sup>9</sup> Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.

<sup>10</sup> From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

<sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

<sup>12</sup> Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

<sup>13</sup> Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me.

<sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me.

<sup>15</sup> My mouth<sup>[d]</sup> is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.

<sup>16</sup> Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce<sup>[e]</sup> my hands and my feet.

<sup>17</sup> All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me.

<sup>18</sup> They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.

<sup>19</sup> But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

<sup>20</sup> Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.

<sup>21</sup> Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

<sup>22</sup> I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you.

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

<sup>25</sup> From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you<sup>[f]</sup> I will fulfill my vows.

<sup>26</sup> The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord will praise him—may your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

<sup>28</sup> for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup> All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive.

<sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

<sup>31</sup> They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

*Please take 5 minutes for silent reflection.*

Portions of the liturgy of this service from: [Maundy Thursday Liturgy, B \(bedworthparish.org\)](http://Maundy_Thursday_Liturgy_B_(bedworthparish.org))