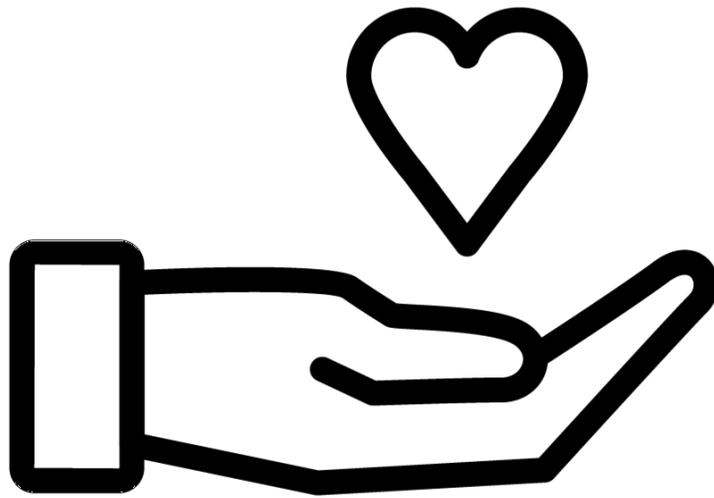


A NEW COMMAND
I GIVE YOU:
LOVE ONE ANOTHER



Maundy Thursday
April 9, 2020



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen.

Psalm 116

- ¹ I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.
- ² Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.
- ³ The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came over me;
I was overcome by distress and sorrow.
- ⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD: "LORD, save me!"
- ⁵ The LORD is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
- ⁶ The LORD protects the unwary;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
- ⁷ Return to your rest, my soul,
for the LORD has been good to you.
- ⁸ For you, LORD, have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,
- ⁹ that I may walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.
- ¹⁰ I trusted in the LORD when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted";
- ¹¹ in my alarm I said,
"Everyone is a liar."
- ¹² What shall I return to the LORD
for all his goodness to me?
- ¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.
- ¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
- ¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful servants.
- ¹⁶ Truly I am your servant, LORD;
I serve you just as my mother did;
you have freed me from my chains.
- ¹⁷ I will sacrifice a thank offering to you
and call on the name of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
- ¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD—
in your midst, Jerusalem.

Praise the LORD.

Confession & Absolution

Friends, as he was with his people throughout the years, the Lord is with us today. As he was there to comfort, guide, and forgive his straying people of the past, he is here to do the same for us. We need the comfort, guidance, and forgiveness only he can give. We have so often failed and fallen short. Yet he keeps inviting us to come before him. Because of Christ, God will not send us away. As we acknowledge our brokenness and sin, he hears our prayers.

Lord, I have sinned against you. I was sinful from birth. I have so often failed to live as your child. My sins deserved unending punishment and separation from you. Father, I am sorry for my sins. And I know your heart. I know your love. I know Jesus, your Son and my Savior. Forgive me and restore me because of Jesus.

In his great love for you, God sent his Son. Jesus came to offer his broken body and shed his innocent blood. The innocent became guilty, so that the guilty may go free. God made Christ, who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God! You are forgiven. You are loved. You are God's child and an heir of heaven. Your heavenly Father delights in you. God be your strength as he sets you free to live and love as a child of heaven.

Prayer

Lord God, you have brought us safely to this time of prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows and our fears with the comfort of your Word, and receive our thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, amen.

God's Word

Exodus 12:1-14

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ²"This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴If 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. ⁵The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷Then 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. ⁸That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. ¹⁰Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹This 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.

¹²"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. ¹³The 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.

¹⁴ “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.”

Imagine you were at that first Passover. What would you be thinking and talking about that night?

What parts of the Passover pointed ahead to Jesus, his love, and what he would do for us?

God’s Word

John 13:1-15, 34

¹ 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.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ 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.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

⁷ Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

⁸ “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

⁹ “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

¹⁰ 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.” ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² 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. ¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. . . .

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

Imagine you were at this Passover celebration. What would you have said to Jesus when he came to wash your feet?

We don’t have servants wash our feet today. What sort of things can we do for each other that would be like washing someone’s feet in Jesus’ day?

Message from God's Word

Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

The Christian's Guide to Times of Darkness

In what areas of your life do you want to clothe yourself more with Christ?

In what areas of your life do you want to grow in showing love toward others?

Prayer of the Church & the Lord's Prayer

Dear Lord, as we join our hearts in Jesus' name, hear us as we pray: Lord, have mercy.

For the well-being of people everywhere, for the healing and strengthening of the sick and dying, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for peace for all who worship you: Christ, have mercy.

For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will: Lord, have mercy.

For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place: Lord, hear our prayer.

For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom: Thanks be to God.

In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord. Amen.

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.

Blessing

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

Offerings

If you would like to give an offering to support our ministry, you may do so online at cocidaho.org/give. You can also contact the church office (secretary@cocidaho.org or 208-922-8422) to schedule a time to bring your offering to church.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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Our Mission

Cross of Christ congregation exists to joyously proclaim the gospel of free salvation locally and worldwide. Through God's Word and Sacraments, we strive to win lost souls for Christ and nurture believers for lives of Christian service.
