



Maundy Thursday
Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church
April 17th, 2025

During the Last Supper, Jesus kneels to wash his disciples' feet. When he comes to Peter, we see a similar pattern unfold yet again: reluctance then exuberance. Peter initially resists, but then he wholeheartedly submits. We see this duality in Peter often, but do we also see these patterns in ourselves? Peter is named "Cephas," which means "the rock." In this story, we imagine that God's grace reshapes him in the way that water softens the rough edges of stone. When we, like Peter, are reluctant and resistant to receiving love, can we remember that streams of mercy are never ceasing? Will we be reshaped by grace?

Prelude

Welcome

Passing The Peace

Call to Worship

We invite you to bring your body into the worship of God. You may do so standing or seated, by listening to your heartbeat or noticing the rise and fall of your abdomen with each breath.

A call to worship is a call to presence.

We long to be fully present here, and to feel God's presence here.

Notice the space around us, the way it looks, smells, and sounds.

With all our senses, we recognize a sacred space and our belonging in it.

We gather as good creation, wonderfully made.

We join our bodies into one body as we remember the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Opening Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This (Vs 1&2)

ELW #666

Opening Ritual

Tonight, we'll hear the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal and arrest. It is a story of deep intimacy and sacred connection. It is also a story about human resistance to God's grace and our discomfort with the ways that Jesus demands the disruption of hierarchies. In this story, Simon Peter first objects to Jesus's plan to wash his feet. Jesus does not rebuke him, but he does insist, for he knows what is to come. As we enter into the sacred story of John's gospel, let us take a few moments to notice our feet. Take off your shoes if you wish. Wiggle your toes. Plant your feet firmly on the ground. As you experience these sensations, consider the wonder of God, who meets us not only from on high but also kneeling at our feet.

Reading: John 13:1-17

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. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.

Foot Washing/Hand Washing

Foot washing is uncomfortable for many people, just as Peter was uncomfortable with Jesus washing his feet. We invite you to lean into this discomfort around vulnerability as we wash one another's feet or hands tonight.

Offering

Through the sacraments, God meets us in physical space, offering God's self to us again and again. In a spirit of grateful response, we offer what we have to meet the needs of our neighbors, to serve Creation, and to glorify God. Let us give our tithes and offerings.

Offering Song

Give Thanks

Gray #170

Offering Prayer

Extravagant God, **you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Holy Communion

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

L: 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,

ALL: "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

L: ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,

ALL: "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.

Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Table

The Table of the joyful feast is not our Table but God's. Nothing you do, nothing you say, nothing about you can prevent you from partaking, for in communion God reveals the wholeness of who we are together and with God. So as you receive this joyful feast, come exactly as you are. There is more than enough. Come, for all is ready.

Recognition of Holy Communion Learners

Communion Distribution (All Are Welcome to Receive Communion Here at GA Church)

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

Holy Mystery, through communion we unite our bodies with your body, and in unity we gain strength and hope. We give thanks for your transforming love. Like the sacraments, we know that love is a doing, and so we ask for your help to turn this nourishment into love for all we meet. **Amen.**

Mini Monologue/Reflection

Reading: John 13:33-35

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."

Sending

Benediction

L: Jesus chose to use his final hours to establish intimate and profound physical connections with his friends. In the midst of this connection, he offered a new commandment: to love others as he loves us. This is not an abstract, sentimental love. This is bread-breaking, foot-washing, messy love. We have visited the font, we have been nourished at the Table, and now we go out into the world to live out Jesus's commandment. As we leave this place, may the presence of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer fill the nooks and crannies of our lives. Go in love!

C: We go out together in love. Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

"This act symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. It represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life."

Dismissal

Leave the Sanctuary in Silence

Bulletin Donated:

Mission Statement of Gustaf Lutheran Church (Adopted in 2022)

To share the Good News of God's Word and to serve the community and the world.

Matthew 22:39 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

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We celebrate weekly Holy Communion. We welcome all who believe in the Risen Christ and who find in the sacrament our Lord's real presence for the forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life. If you receive communion in your home congregation, you are invited to receive it here at G.A. Red wine and white grape juice will be offered to you in Christ's name. You may choose your preference. If you are unable to receive wheat bread, or wine, be sure that in a single element you receive the Presence and all the gifts of the sacrament.

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