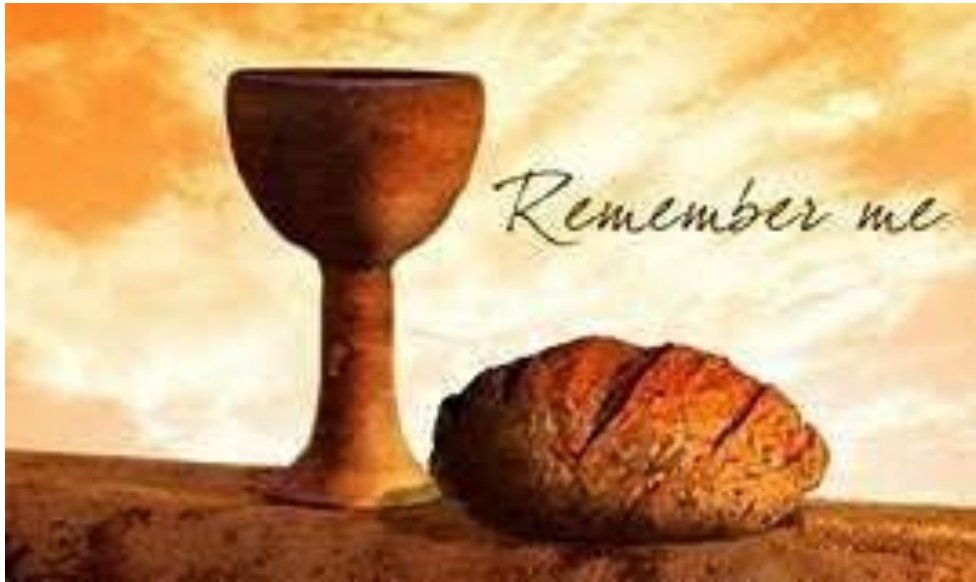


**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church**  
**South Avenue United Methodist Church**  
Russel W. Shuluga, Pastor



**Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021 – 7:00PM**

**PRELUDE** "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" J. Pachelbel

**GREETING** We're celebrating the life of Jesus and the story of the Passover - freedom from oppression.

**Judaism Story**

Long ago, 4,000 years ago, Hebrews were slaves in the land along the Nile River, One man with his brother and sister mobilized the people with a dream of freedom. Moses, Aaron, and Miriam led the Hebrews out of plagues and Egypt into the Sinai desert where they experienced freedom to be as difficult as slavery! One night, they tiptoed out of Pharaoh's land, grateful for divine help and for all their belongings, The Egyptians woke to find their eldest children dead and the brickyards without any workers, The Hebrews explained their freedom by saying, "God's messenger passed over our homes and set us free," Each year, the Jews tell this Passover story with words, music, and foods bitter and sweet!

**Christian Story**

Jesus was a Jew who lived at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea in the first century of this common era, So this story is very old, too. Jesus gathered his friends for Passover celebration in Jerusalem : in a special room with special foods. That evening, one friend \* Judas -- left early, He went to government and religious authorities and accused Jesus of inappropriate actions, So Jesus was arrested and the assembled mob murdered him. His friends laid his body in a cave and put a big stone in front of the opening, Three days later, the body was gone! The friends were frantic, But they experienced Jesus in the garden and on the road to Emmaus, They believed he had risen from death!

Today, 2,000 years later, we believe that Jesus is the Christ and lives in you and me! We believe that Jesus gives us three directives or mandates: love God, love self, love neighbor!

**Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord.**

**Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.**

**Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.**

## OPENING PRAYER

**Thank you for the Hebrews who trusted that you would see them through years of desert wandering. Thank you for Jesus who trusted that you would see him through the suffering of betrayal and physical dying, Thank you for being with us, teaching us to love ourselves and one another. Amen.**

### The Passover with His Disciples

## READING

Matthew 26:17-25

## HYMN:

To the Tune Of "Where You There

No. 288

**Were you there when he gathered with his friends?**

**Were you there when he gathered with his friends?**

**O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when he gathered with his friends?**

(silence)

### The Lord's Supper

## READING

Matthew 26:26-30

## HYMN:

To the Tune of "Were You There"

No. 288

**Were you there when he gave them bread and wine?**

**Were you there when he gave them bread and wine?**

**O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when he gave them bread and wine?**

(silence)

## THE INVITATION

A table is set before us, A feast is prepared for us.

**A meal of bread and wine.**

The Lord calls us to this supper of remembrance,

**The Lord calls us to serve and to be served.**

As we break the bread and share the cup,

**our understanding may fail us.**

But we will never forget Christ's example.

**We will never forget the full extent of his love.**

## CONFESSING

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## GENERAL CONFESSION

**Loving Christ, on that night long ago, you knew that your hour had come. You knew full well what lay ahead of you. Your disciples loved you and followed you, but they had also failed you. They would fail you yet again that night, and one would betray you. Yet you washed their feet, as a servant would, even the feet of your betrayer. We have also loved you and followed you. We have also failed you, and we cannot comprehend the love that you show us, the love that is our example, the love that tells us to do as you have done for us. May we be like you, Master, servants of all. May all see how we long to be your faithful disciples. May all see how we love each other, just as you have loved us. In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Now the Son of Man, the one who loves us, is glorified. In him, God is also glorified, The one who loves us gives us a new commandment: to love one another! As the Lord has loved us, you are to love each other. Let all see this love among you, and glorify God, Let all see how you belong to Christ!

## HYMN OF ASSURANCE:

“Amazing Grace”

No. 378

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

On the night of his arrest, the Lord Jesus took bread and broke it, saying: "This is my body, given for you. Remember me."

**As Jesus gave thanks to God, we also give thanks for his sacrifice.**

On that same night, in the same way, the Lord Jesus took the cup, saying: "This is my blood, poured out for you. Remember me,"

**As Jesus gave thanks to God, we also give thanks for this new covenant.**

When you eat this bread and drink this cup, remember the Lord Jesus. Remember and be thankful, remember until he comes!

**Remember us when you come, Lord Jesus! Thanks be to God!**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

We give you thanks for Christ, the gift of your love and grace. Pour out your Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and wine. May they become the body and blood of Christ for us. Nourished by them, may we become the body of Christ in the world, Amen,

## SHARING THE BREAD AND THE WINE

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Holy God, on this night Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: to love one another as he loved them, Write this commandment on our hearts and strengthen us in service, in unity and in love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

## Jesus Washes the Feet of His Disciples

## READING

John 13:1-B

## HYMN:

To the Tune of "Were You There"

No. 288

**Were you there when he knelt and washed their feet?  
Were you there when he knelt and washed their feet?  
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when he knelt and washed their feet?**

(silence)

## In Gethsemane

## READING

Matthew 26:36-45

## HYMN:

To the Tune of "Were You There"

No. 288

**Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?  
Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?  
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble'  
Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?**

(silence)

## The Betrayal and Arrest

READING

Matthew 26:47-56

HYMN:

To the Tune of "Were You There"

No. 288

**Were you there when his friends betrayed and ran?  
Were you there when his friends betrayed and ran?  
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when his friends betrayed and ran?**

(silence)

### BENEDICTION

It was by the blood of a sacrificial lamb that the Hebrews were saved in Egypt, as God passed over their homes. And it was at his final Passover feast that Jesus ate his last meal on earth, showing himself to be the sacrificial Lamb of God, by whose blood the entire world is saved, This was a Passover feast unlike any other. Jesus changed its imagery forever by asking his disciples to eat his body, with the breaking of the bread, and to drink his blood with the sharing of the cup. And so, this meal became for us the Lord's Supper, commemorated as the sacrament of Holy Communion. As doubtful and confused as the disciples must have been, Jesus left no doubt about his love for them, as he washed their feet--even the feet of Judas Iscariot, his betrayer, Sacrifice and love, then, are the foremost themes of Holy Thursday: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34b).

*At this conclusion of the service, the congregation leaves in silence.*

