



**Maundy Thursday- April 2, 2026**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

[propeace.org](http://propeace.org)

**Prelude** *Lent et Calme* (“*Kyrie eleison*”)

Jean Huré, arr. Harvey Gaul

## **Call to Worship**

**P:** Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

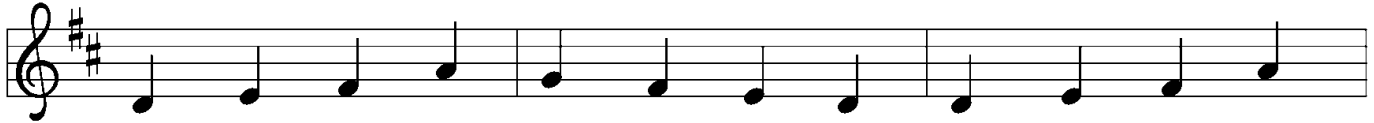
**C:** **In worship on this day, we testify to God’s love shown perfectly in Christ, and we recommit ourselves to love one another as a community of faith.**

## **Prayer**

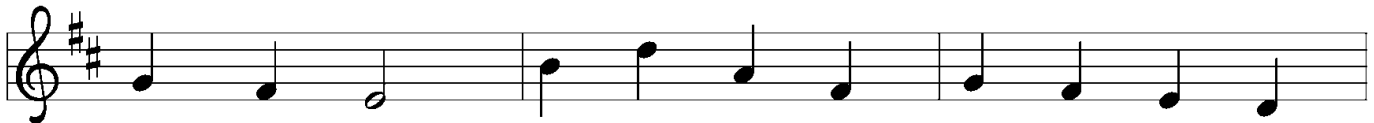
**All:** **Holy God, remind us on this special day of the many ways we know you: as strong advocate, as humble servant, as the One who bids us love one another, that the world might know you. Lead us not only to the beauty of solitary reflection but also to community, as we remember together your words and your example. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.**

**Song** *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

# Will You Let Me Be Your Servant



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as  
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers  
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time  
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll  
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to  
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er  
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,  
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row  
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.  
walk the mile and bear the load.  
speak the peace you long to hear.  
till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard

Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song (c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music)/ASCAP,  
c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Coady Road, Mobile AL 36695.

## Part I: The Preparations

John 13:1-17, 33-35

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

<sup>12</sup>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?" <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. <sup>33</sup>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.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Homily

Rev. Sara Pearson

## **Part II: Foot Washing and Prayer Stations**

**(3-4 interactive prayer stations will be set up around sanctuary)**

*You are invited to head to the interactive prayer stations set around the sanctuary. Stations will include: hand washing, meditation with broken pottery, opportunity for healing prayer around the communion railing)*

**Choir Anthem** *Ubi Caritas*

Victor Johnson

## **Part III: Communion**

*(all are invited to come and circle around the altar, if you brought wine or juice for the year's communion usage please bring it now)*

One: We remember that on the night before Jesus was betrayed, Jesus gathered around a table, much like this one, with a motley crew of friends.

**All: Jesus welcomed all the disciples to the table, regardless of where they had been or how much dirt was matted on their sandals.**

One: Jesus took their sore, calloused feet in his hands, washing off the caked dirt and muddy layers until their skin shone clean.

**All: After the foot washing, Jesus and his disciples supped together.**

One: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, lifted it up, giving thanks to you O God, and he broke it, saying: This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

**All: In all times, we may be sure that the Bread of Life will sustain us.**

One: On that same night, Jesus took the cup, blessing it, giving thanks to you O God, and gave it to his friends, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**All: This is the cup of reconciliation. We are nourished in our bodies, our spirits, our minds and our hearts as we share this cup.**

One: And so, let us now join together as the priesthood of all believers in blessing the elements before us,

**All: Come Holy Spirit, come and pour out your Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Transform us into the Body of Christ that we might truly become the hands and feet of Jesus. Strengthen and energize us to love and to serve. We ask this through Jesus, with Jesus, in Jesus. Amen.**

## **Communion Distribution**

**Song** *Jesus Remember Me*

*“Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.”*

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. By the power of your Holy Spirit, unite us with all whom Christ welcomes, that we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## **Part IV: Jesus’ Final Lessons to his Disciples**

*(a summation of chapters 15-17 of John, his final words to his disciples)*

After they had supped, Judas left the room/table. And Jesus began to speak to them, a summation of his teachings and last words.

Both ways of telling the story of this night lead us to the same meaning. The original Passover recalled one kind of liberation – liberation from slavery in Egypt. This meal suggests another kind of liberation – liberation from playing the shame games of rivalry, pecking order, domination, and competition to reach the top of the pyramid of pride. If the first Passover gets people out from under the heel of the slave master, this holy meal seeks to inspire people away from the desire to be slave masters in the first place. This meal celebrates a new model of aliveness – a model of service, of self-giving, of being blessed, broken, and given for the well-being of others.

We find Jesus – the humble leader. We find Jesus – a king who instead of being served is one who serves, and asks the same of us.

**All (*in unison*):** Jesus, the king of self-giving sets an example of service. And in that context, he asks us to remember him and honor him with selfless acts of love and mercy.

**Pastor Sara:** Later on that unforgettable night, after the holy supper, Jesus went to a garden to pray, and his disciples fell asleep. As he prayed, he was overcome by powerful emotions so much so that it is said that he sweated blood. He was then arrested, stripped of his outer garment, and whipped. Deserted by all those who stood by him through so much. To remember this reality, we now strip the altar and the worship space of its decorations, marking the solemnity of the night of his arrest.

#### **Part IV: Stripping of the Altar**

*There is little glory in the last days of Jesus' life. As you witness this act of reducing our beautiful worship space, ponder how the simplicity of this action further highlights Jesus' teachings.*

#### ***We Exit in Silence***

*Worship continues with Good Friday tomorrow at 7:00PM*

*Following the Good Friday worship service, we will have a “wake for Jesus in the fellowship hall”. We will share stories, memories, light refreshments and prepare the sanctuary for Resurrection Sunday once the space has emptied of worshipers.*

*Please email [pastorsara@propeace.org](mailto:pastorsara@propeace.org) if you are joining us.*

