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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

What shall we offer for all God's goodness to us?

Let us lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, source and sovereign, you put all power and authority into the hands of Christ, who washes our feet in humble service. Teach us to love one another as Christ has loved us, so that everyone will know that we are his disciples; through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Lord, we pray. Amen.

HYMN 533 In the Singing

**In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant,
Open, in the blessing, in the breaking,
In the Presence at this table.**

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, Be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

**In the questions, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance,
In the heart's cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people.**

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, Be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves. If we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we receive discipline so that we may not be condemned along with the world. With confidence in God's abundant mercy, let us examine ourselves and confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept you Word.

Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

²**Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

¹²What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

¹³**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,**

¹⁴I will pay 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 ones.**

¹⁶O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,
¹⁹**in the courts of the house**

Matthew 26:17-30

¹⁷On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. ²⁰When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" ²³He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." ²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." ³⁰When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

SERMON The Cup

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving, listening God, ever-attentive to the voices of those in need, we call on your name so that we might live. Now hear our prayers:

For the church that bears Christ's name, that the world may know we are his disciples by the love that we have for one another.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For leaders of nations and all persons in positions of authority, that their lives may be marked by Christ-like service and love.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all who are oppressed and living in captivity, that they may escape from evil and death to find the land of freedom you have promised.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are hungry and thirsty this day and for those who have too much, that we may learn to share your generous gifts, O God.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are dealing with loss or facing death, that the presence of Christ may bless and keep them.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Answer us in the day of trouble, O God, so that we may lift up the cup of salvation in the presence of your people, giving thanks for all your goodness to us; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ:

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, Loving God, that we lift up to you all thanks and praise for the self-giving love that you lavish upon us.

Tonight we remember, with reverence, the unshakeable love your Son had for his followers; the kind of love that we are called to show one another.

Love is your supreme act of creation, a force that is unstoppable even in the face of betrayal and death.

Gracious God, you call us to love one another, just as you have loved us.

May this meal be a source of inspiration and courage that we might follow your example and lavish love upon one another, not just in the moments when it is easy, but especially during the times when it is hard.

Send your Spirit to preside with us, that we might be transformed to your presence, and be nourished for the journey ahead. Unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name so that we may be one in ministry in every place. Through Christ,

all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

Unison: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

Unison: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN 216 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty Rock Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, And the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One, Who suffered there for me;
And from my smitten heart, with tears, Two wonders I confess,
The wonders of His glorious love, And my own worthlessness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than The sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, My glory all the cross.

BLESSING

We end our worship together in silence.

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES
WATCH FOR ZOOM INVITATIONS
GOOD FRIDAY, 7:00 PM
EASTER SUNDAY, NOON**

