
A NOTE ON TONIGHT'S SERVICE

With nightfall, our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

The Liturgy for Maundy Thursday is an unusual one. It begins with the homily and proceeds into an invitation to confession and includes the absolution that was postponed from Ash Wednesday. The absolution was not pronounced on Ash Wednesday to help us see the forty days of Lent as a Whole...and the various liturgies likewise as part of the whole Lenten focus. This unusual ordering of the service closes off the time of repentance to conclude the season of penitence. Now that we have seen the reasons for the necessity of the redemptive process, we are free to focus on the actual process, contained in the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

Following Holy Communion the altar is stripped, symbolic of Christ being stripped, not only of his clothing, but also of his power and glory. Following the stripping of the altar *we leave in silence*, to return to continue the drama of our redemption on Good Friday at 7 p.m. at the Paradise United Methodist Church on Wagstaff & Clark Rd.

Silence for Meditation & Reflection

The Hymn

"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

Green Hymnal #93

Homily

Pastor Rod

Silence for Reflection

The Confession

P: Most holy and merciful Father:

C: **We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of Saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and in deed: by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**