

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
O, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

GOSPEL LESSON

John 13:1-17, 31-35

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

"No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

Jesus said, "The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once. Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going. So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

LESSON

"For All the World to See"

Rev, Ned Alderman

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Gracious God, graciously behold this family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. One God, forever and ever. **Amen.**



Oaklette United Methodist Church

"God's Body in this Community"

"Oaklette United Methodist Church through worship, education, and outreach, seeks to make the gospel of Jesus Christ real, as we minister to all people."

April 2, 2026

Holy Thursday



GREETING

Followers of Jesus, our lives are filled with stress and distress, disquiet and fear. In the unrest and the fear, we gather to worship God who delivers us.

Like the disciples gathered with Jesus, we feel the turmoil of rumors and conspiracies, the grasping for power and security that threatens the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors. In the suffering and the tumult, we gather to call on God who delivers us.

Facing an unknown future, the disciples gathered as we do today, to be surprised by Love, to share a meal, to remember their story, to receive a new story and a new meal. In the uncertainty of these days, we gather to share the story of God who delivers us.

Followers of Jesus, come. Come to the basin and be washed. Come to the meal and be fed. Come to the table and be strengthened for the journey.

We gather together to remember the story of God's deliverance, that we may go from this place to heal the hurting, to tend the suffering, to love one another as Jesus loves us.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, as those who strive to follow Jesus in our living and to trust your power in our dying, we gather to reflect upon the life that ended on a cross. We recognize in ourselves the strengths and weaknesses of Jesus' disciples: although they loved him, they disappointed and failed him.

And yet, gathering with these imperfect friends at this last meal, Jesus washed their feet in service, and then extended the bread and cup to each. Jesus called them to love one another and invited them to share in his very life and in his acceptance of the road ahead. We are humbled, honored, and inspired by the deep love Christ extended to the world, and we take seriously the calling to be the body of Christ today.

Forgive us when we disappoint and fail you, and guide us back to a place of trust and faithful living. Grant us the vision to see the world as you see it, with love and compassion for each creature and all of your creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray to you. . . [Lord's Prayer]

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as

we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 12:1-14

While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the Lord gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: “From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you. Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household. If a family is too small to eat a whole animal, let them share with another family in the neighborhood. Divide the animal according to the size of each family and how much they can eat. The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects.

“Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight. They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal. That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast. Do not eat any of the meat raw or boiled in water. The whole animal – including the head, legs, and internal organs – must be roasted over a fire. Do not leave any of it until the next morning. Burn whatever is not eaten before morning.

“These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the Lord’s Passover. On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the Lord! But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.

“This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the Lord. This is a law for all time.”

HYMN

“Lamb of God”

TFWS #2113

Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side,
to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet lamb of God, I love the Holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood – my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Your gift of love, they crucified, they laughed and scorned him as he died,
the humble king they named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God

O Lamb of God, sweet lamb of God, I love the Holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood – my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side,
to be led by your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God

O Lamb of God, sweet lamb of God, I love the Holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood – my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Holy Deliverer, tonight, we have reached the all-too-familiar story of the eve before the execution. While there are times when we relate very well to Jesus in this story, we forget that we have been Judas, Peter, and the disciples. We have allowed ourselves to become part of someone’s story of pain. Our words have pierced another’s hearts. We have betrayed our neighbor instead of filling this world and another’s soul with love. Instead of living with the heaviness of guilt, allow us to create peace around us and within us. Invite us to share our repentance and to reconcile whenever possible. May we live into the mandate to love one another as you love us. Amen.

Through the redeeming love of Christ, God has poured grace upon us. May the mercy of God transform us into bearers of love in a wounded world. **Amen.**

PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19

I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy.

Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!

What can I offer the Lord for all he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and praise the Lord’s name for saving me.

I will keep my promises to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

The Lord cares deeply when his loved ones die.

O Lord, I am your servant; yes, I am your servant, born into your household; you have freed me from my chains.

I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people – in the house of the Lord in the heart of Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people – an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.” For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again.

HYMN

”What Feast of Love”

W&S #3170

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

THE PEACE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good, and a joyful thing always and everywhere to give our thanks to you, who led the Israelites out of bondage into freedom, who commanded them to keep the Passover as a remembrance of how you saved their firstborn from death, and how you brought them out of the land of Egypt. And so, with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus, we praise your name and join their unending hymn, saying:

Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in your holy name. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and holy is the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who taught us how to love and serve one another, and who poured out his life for the healing of the world.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ, in service to all who are oppressed.

God of Moses and Miriam and Aaron, God of Exodus and Calvary, God of memory and hope, we praise your holy, eternal name. **Amen.**

Scifres, Mary; Beu, B.J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (pp. 79-81). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

HYMN

"More Love to Thee, O Christ"

#453

More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!
Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to Thee;
More love to thee, more love to thee!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
now thee alone I seek, give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;
more love to thee, more love to thee!

Let sorrow do its work, come grief and pain;
Sweet are thy messengers, sweet their refrain,
When they can sing with me: more love, O Christ, to thee;
more love to thee, more love to thee!

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

This is our new commandment: to love one another as Jesus loves us. By this, everyone will know that we are Christ's disciples: that we love one another.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1. Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

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