

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Maundy Thursday - April 9, 2020

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #452 (TLH) - *"The Son of God Goes Forth to War"*

The Son of God goes forth to war
A kingly crown to gain.
His blood-red flag streams wide and far
Who follows in his train?
All those who drink Christ's cup of woe,
Triumphant over pain,
And patient bear their cross below
They follow in his train.

Saint Stephen, looking to the sky,
Saw heav'n beyond the grave
The Son of Man by God on high,
And called on him to save.
Like Christ, the pardon rare displayed,
While on the cross in pain,
This saint for his assailants prayed
Who follows in his train?

A glorious band - the chosen few,
On whom the Spirit came
Because sure hope in Christ they knew
In peace met cross and flame.
They suffered ridicule and scorn,
With hatred they were slain.
Now crowns their faithful heads adorn
Who follows in their train?

A noble army, robed in white,
From ev'ry tribe and race,

Around the Savior's throne delight
To see his glorious face.
They held the narrow path to heav'n
Through peril, toil, and pain.
O God, to us may grace be giv'n
To follow in their train!

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD told Moses and Aaron this in the land of Egypt: This is to be the first month of the year for you. Tell the entire Israelite community that on the tenth day of this month, they are to take a lamb or a young goat for themselves, according to their fathers' households, one lamb per household. But if the household is too small for a whole lamb, then that person and his neighbor next door to him must select one, based on the number of people. Determine what size lamb is needed according to how much each person will eat. Your lamb must be unblemished, a year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or the goats. You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of this month. Then the whole assembly of the Israelite community is to slaughter the lambs at sunset. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where they eat the lamb. That night they shall eat the meat that has been roasted over a fire, along with unleavened bread. They shall eat it with bitter herbs. Do not eat it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over a fire - with its head, its legs, and its internal organs. You shall not leave any of it until the morning. Whatever remains until the

morning, you shall burn in the fire. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt ready for travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. For on that night I will pass through the land of Egypt. I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both people and animals. Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. There will be no plague among you to destroy you when I strike down the land of Egypt. This day shall be a memorial for you, and you are to celebrate it as a festival to the LORD. Throughout your generations you must celebrate it as a permanent regulation. (EHV)

The Psalm - Psalm 116

Refrain: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

**I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
He heard my cry for mercy.**

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

**The LORD is gracious and righteous;
When I was in great need, he saved me.**

Refrain: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

**For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death,
My eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

**How can I repay the LORD
For all his goodness to me?**

**I will lift up the cup of salvation
And call on the name of the LORD.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the meal, he also took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the Lord's body and blood. Instead, let a person examine himself and after doing so, let him eat of the bread and drink from the cup. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Gospel: John 13:1-15, 34

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved those who were his own in the world, he loved them to the end. By the time the supper took place, the Devil had already put the idea into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God. He got up from the supper and laid aside his outer garment. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand." Peter told him, "You will never, ever, wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me." "Lord, not just my feet," Simon Peter replied, "but also my hands and my head!" Jesus told him, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet, but his body is completely clean. And you are clean, but not all of you." Indeed, he knew who was going to betray him. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean." After Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer garment, he reclined at the table again. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me Teacher and Lord. You are right, because I am. Now if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. Yes, I have given you an example so that you also would do just as I

have done for you. A new commandment I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so also you are to love one another.” (EHV)

The Apostles’ Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #32 - “When Sinners See Their Lost Condition”

**When sinners see their lost condition
And feel the pressing load of sin
And Jesus comes on his blest mission
To heal the sin-sick heart within,
All grief must flee before his grace,
And joy divine will take its place.**

**When Jesus enters meek and lowly
To fill the home with sweetest peace,
When hearts have felt his blessing holy
And found from sin complete release,
Then calm and joy within shall reign,
And hearts divided love again.**

**When Jesus enters land and nation
And changes people with his love,
When, yielding to his kind persuasion,
Our hearts his truth and blessing prove,
Then shall our life on earth be blest;
The peace of God on us shall rest.**

**When Jesus comes - O blessed story -
He works a change in heart and life;
God's kingdom comes with pow'r and glory
To young and old, to man and wife.
Through sacrament and living Word
Faith, love, and hope are now conferred.**

**Oh, may he soon to ev'ry nation
Find entrance where he is unknown,
With life and light and free salvation,
That Satan's pow'r be overthrown,
And healing to all hearts may come
In heathen land and Christian home!**

**The Sermon: Luke 22:47-48
 "The Battle Is Personal"**

*Luke 22:47-48 - "While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called **Judas**, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to **kiss** him, but Jesus asked him, 'Judas, are you **betraying** the Son of Man with a **kiss**?'"*

I'm going to take you back today to a war which was fought over 3,000 years ago - a war between the city of **Sparta** and the city of **Troy**. It's called the **Trojan War**. After a 10 year-long siege of the city of Troy, the Spartans built a huge wooden **horse**, and set it outside the walls of Troy. Then they **left**. When the Trojans **saw** it, they pulled it **into** their city. As it turned out, there were soldiers hiding **inside** the horse, and that night they opened the city gates so the returning Spartan army could finally get inside and **defeat** the Trojans.

Our text today is a tragic case of one of Jesus' chosen 12 disciples - a man who had **walked** beside Jesus, had heard His **sermons**, had watched His **miracles**, had **prayed** with Him, and had even done some **mission** work for Him. But in spite of it all, this man - **Judas Iscariot** - became a **betrayed**. Satan had inserted a **Trojan horse** in the heart of Judas. He had gained **control** of him, and turned him **against** Jesus.

As we examine this text tonight, it becomes very clear how important it is that Jesus is our **warrior** who **fought** for us and, to this very day, **helps** us in our

own battles against the devil. Just like he did with **Judas**, Satan wants to use **our** sinful flesh **against** Jesus. **The Battle Is Personal.**

There's a lot of **crime** in our world today, but for the most part, we can keep ourselves **safe**. We can **lock** our **doors** and arm our **security systems** to keep thieves and robbers out of our homes and businesses. We can carry **mace** when we're jogging in order to ward off attackers. It's an ongoing **battle** - a battle which seems to get **worse** and **worse** as time goes on. And yet, our most **difficult** battle is an **internal** one - just like the battle which raged in the heart of **Judas**.

Let's go back there for a moment. It was right after Jesus and His disciples had eaten the Passover meal together. They had left the upper room in Jerusalem, and had walked out to the Garden of **Gethsemane** at the foot of the Mount of **Olives**. When they arrived, Jesus went a little farther by Himself, and He **prayed**. When He had finished, Jesus **returned** to His disciples again, only to find that they had all fallen **asleep**. Jesus woke them up, and we're told, *"While he was still speaking, suddenly a **crowd** appeared, and the man called **Judas**, one of the Twelve, was **leading** them. He came near to Jesus to **kiss** him. But Jesus said to him, 'Judas, are you **betraying** the Son of Man with a **kiss**?'"*

Matthew tells us in his Gospel that Judas went right up to Jesus, and singled Him out for the soldiers by dramatically **kissing** Him. Under normal circumstances people would have thought that Judas was greeting his good **friend**, Jesus. But Judas had pre-arranged this friendly greeting to be a **sign** for the soldiers. He was using the display of close friendship to **betray** Jesus, and to hand Him over to His **enemies**. What was it that had turned Judas from being a **friend** of Jesus into someone who could **betray** Him? What **Trojan horse** had entered his heart to make him become a **traitor** to the Savior of the world?

Something certainly had **changed** in Judas. He had been a highly **trusted** member of Jesus' chosen 12 disciples, even serving as the **treasurer** for the group. But, as time went on, Judas started helping **himself** to some of that money. Then Satan entered into Judas and convinced him to go to the chief priests to get paid to **betray** Jesus. Jesus had **warned** His disciples that one of them would betray Him, but Judas didn't **heed** the warning, and he fell into the hands of the **deceiver**. While they were celebrating the **Passover** meal we're told, *"As soon as Judas took the bread, **Satan** entered into him. So Jesus told him, 'What you are about to do, do more quickly.'"* So, Judas **left** to gather together with the **enemies** of Jesus.

What a sad turn of events. It's pretty clear that Judas really **struggled** with the choices he was making. But Satan had **tricked** him into thinking that Jesus didn't know what He was doing. Judas allowed Satan's Trojan horse to come into his life, and that choice ultimately resulted in his **destruction**. **The Battle Is Personal**, and Judas **lost** his battle.

Each one of us faces the same **Personal Battle** against **sin**, and **Satan**, and the **world**, and our own **flesh**. What will the Trojan horse look like in **our** battle? What temptations will the **devil**, the **world**, and our **flesh** present to us, in order to try and convince **us** that Jesus doesn't know what He's doing? Whatever it is, it will be a **struggle**. The Apostle Paul told the Romans, "*I certainly delight in God's law according to my **inner** self, but I see a **different** law at work in my **members**, waging **war** against the law of my mind and taking me **captive** to the law of **sin**, which is present in my members. What a **miserable wretch** I am! Who will **rescue** me from this body of death?*"

The Battle Is Personal, and in reality it's **more** than just a **battle**. It's a **war** - a war that we have been fighting for our entire **lifetime**. We **want** to trust Jesus with all our heart, but our faith is always under **attack**, and our sinful flesh is **weak**. Sometimes there are flashbacks to the **past**, and those **skeletons** in our closet make us feel like we're too **dirty** and **unworthy** to be friends of Jesus. And when we're not stressing over the **past**, we're stressing about the **present** - the sins of **today** - the things we **know** are wrong - things that we **want** to **stop** doing - but we **don't** stop. Like Paul said, "*I do not **understand** what I am doing, because I do **not** keep doing what I **want**. Instead, I do what I **hate**.*" It's **disappointing** - it's **depressing** - and it robs us of our **joy**, and works against our **faith**.

But here's the good news. Although we have to fight the **battles**, we **don't** have to win the **war**. In fact, we **can't** win the war, because it's **over**. Jesus already won it **for us**. Jesus, our warrior, **loves** us, and He **fight**s for us every day of our lives. Jesus helps us fight our personal **battles**, and defends us against the devil's sneak **attacks**. So we can say with Paul, "*Who will **rescue** me from this body of death? I **thank God** through Jesus Christ our Lord!*"

Jesus is our **defense** against our sinful flesh and Satan's battle for our hearts. Our betrayed Jesus will **never** betray us. Jesus went through all that physical abuse **alone**. Jesus went before God's judgment seat **alone**, with the sins of the **world** piled on His shoulders. Jesus experienced **alone** the full torture of **hell itself** in our place. He fought all these **Personal Battles** alone - and in every case, He came through them **victorious**.

When Jesus voluntarily gave up His life on the cross, God **erased** every accusation which had been raised against you, me, and the entire world. The only thing God sees in us now, is the holy, perfect life of **Jesus** - a life which is freely available to all those who turn to Him in **faith**.

Jesus is the **starting** point in our **Personal Battle** against the Trojan horses that Satan keeps trying to use against us and our faith in Jesus. We need this strong **warrior** to **strengthen** us in our on-going battle against sin; and to **do** that, Jesus has given us some powerful **weapons** to use. Here are some of those weapons we have for our personal struggle against sin and Satan.

The **first** weapon is God's powerful **Word** which contains all of God's unailing **promises** to us. God's **Word** is a two-edged **sword** - a sword which **slices open** all the stuff we try to keep **hidden**, and at the same time, a sword which **cuts away** all of our **guilt** as it continues to bring **Jesus** into sharper **focus** for us.

Our **second** weapon is the **Lord's Supper**, which under more **normal** circumstances we would be **receiving** together tonight. In this supper, our **warrior** provides each of us **personally** with His true **body** and **blood**. This is as close as we can possibly get to Jesus on this side of heaven. It's almost as if we were right there in that upper room in Jerusalem, when Jesus looked at each of His disciples, passed around the **bread** and the **wine**, and **assured** them that in this supper He was also giving them His **body** and His **blood**. Can you picture yourself there? Whenever we're **slipping** in our struggles against the devil, this special meal points us right back to **Jesus**, and to the **forgiveness** of sins, eternal **life**, and **salvation** that He fought to win for us. Our battle against Satan is **personal**, but so is this Holy **Supper**.

And our **third** weapon is the **Holy Spirit** who is working within us to strengthen us in our battles against sin and Satan. We have all **benefitted** from having the Holy Spirit **working** in our lives. We all need to continue **encouraging** one another in order to stay close to **Jesus** and His **Word**. That's what will enable our faith to keep **growing**, as we are nourished by God's grace through **Word** and **Sacrament**. **The Battle Is Personal**, but our God has provided us with everything we need to continue to fight the good fight of faith. *"For this reason, take up the **full armor** of God, so that you will be able to **take a stand** on the evil day and, after you have done everything, to **stand**."* Amen.

Prayers:

O Savior, Jesus Christ, God provided us with a Passover **Lamb** to save us from eternal **death** when He sent **You** into our world, and **sacrificed** You on the cross for our sins. We ask You to work true **repentance** in our hearts, causing us to sincerely **confess** our sins, and to **believe** with joyful trust that He has forgiven us for Your sake. May Your **body** and **blood**, given and shed for our sins, and imparted to us in **bread** and **wine**, continue to **nourish** our faith, **cheer** our hearts, and **strengthen** our will to live godly and upright lives.

Gracious Lord, drive out all **hypocrisy** from our hearts, and give each of us a heart which truly loves **You**, and lips which boldly and honestly **declare** Your name to others. Don't allow Satan to **rob** us of the treasures of **heaven** by **tempting** us to love the treasures and pleasures of this **world**. As You **boldly** went out to meet the enemy, **intent** on doing the Father's will, so may we be set to obey Him in **everything**, so that what pleases **Him** pleases **us**. By Your Spirit, help us to **watch** and **pray** at all times, and to be fully aware of the **weaknesses** of our flesh. And if the time of **victory** over our sinful flesh and the wicked world seems **long** in coming, teach us to find **joy** and **courage** through **believing** Your promises of everlasting salvation.

Precious Redeemer, may Your **face** that once reflected the **burden** of our sins and the **anguish** of hell, always be turned **toward** us in **love** and **tenderness**. Let no one who has known You as their Friend, Lord, and Savior, ever **betray** Your love. And may Your **blood** once shed for us, be the perfect **cleansing** power for our sins. Hear us to the glory of Your name. Amen.

The 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 and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn #313 - *“Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”*

**Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior,
Turned away God’s wrath forever;
By his bitter grief and woe
He saved us from the evil foe.**

**As his pledge of love undying,
He, this precious food supplying,
Gives his body with the bread
And with the wine the blood he shed.**

**Jesus here himself is sharing;
Take heed how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe,
Judgment instead you shall receive.**

**Useless would be Jesus’ passion
If salvation you could fashion.
Do not come if you suppose
You need not him who died and rose.**

**Christ says, “Come, all you that labor,
And receive my grace and favor;
Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician’s help or skill.”**

**Then hold fast with faith unshaken
That this food is to be taken
By the souls who are distressed,
By hearts that long for peace and rest.**

**Praise the Father, who from heaven
Unto us such food has given**

**And, to mend what we have done,
Gave into death his only Son.**

**If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
Surely you will be his guest
And at his banquet ever blest.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #116 - *"In the Hour of Trial"*

**In the hour of trial,
Jesus, plead for me
Lest by base denial
I unworthy be.
When you see me waver,
With a look recall,
Nor for fear or favor
Ever let me fall.**

**With forbidden pleasures
Should this vain world charm
Or its tempting treasures
Spread to work me harm,
Bring to my remembrance
Sad Gethsemane
Or, in darker semblance,
Cross-crowned Calvary.**

**Should your mercy send me
Sorrow, toil, and woe,
Or should pain attend me
On my path below,
Grant that I may never
Fail your cross to view;
Grant that I may ever
Cast my care on you.**

**When my life is ending,
Though in grief or pain,
When my body changes
Back to dust again,
On your truth relying,
Through that mortal strife,
Jesus, take me, dying,
To eternal life.**