Sola Lectionary Text Study

Maundy Thursday

March 25, 2027 (Year B)



"Thy holy body into death was given, life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!
O Lord, have mercy!"
– Martin Luther –
A Hymn for Holy Communion, 1524

Proclamation Points

The following are some thoughts and questions to be used for a text study on the weekly lessons, or for jump-starting the imagination of the preacher and hearer in preparing for the proclamation event.

Footwashing Gospel: John 13:1-35

John informed his readers that it was time for Jesus to depart the world he was sent to save. He knew that his "hour had come." He loved his people and wanted to show them what that love looked like, so that they might carry on in his ways after he was gone. Jesus took on the role of servant and washed his disciples' feet. He knew they wouldn't understand the full meaning of his actions, but it was critical for them to submit to his serving them if they wanted to be a part of what he was ushering in. On the night, Jesus taught his followers about sacrificial, servant-driven love.

- *Why is it so integral to the Christian faith to be a servant to others? Is there any other way to follow Christ?*

At that same meal, Jesus predicted that one of his friends would betray him. None of the disciples seemed to know who it would be and they even questioned themselves. When Jesus gave Judas Iscariot a scrap of bread which was the sign that would indicate who the traitor was, Satan entered into Judas.

- *Was Judas able to resist the sin of betrayal? Why or why not? Does it seem like the other disciples saw what was happening between Judas and Jesus?*

Exodus 24:3-11

When Moses came down from the mountain after receiving the tables of the Law he was instructed by God to share with them all of the rules of the Covenant. The people responded affirmatively and in one accord, "We will do this!" The covenant was sealed in an act of worship where Moses collected blood from the sacrifices and tossed it on the altar and on the people. After that, Moses, Aaron and his sons Nadab and Abihu, along with seventy elders went up the mountain and saw God.

- *What was the vision of God that the 74 men saw on the mountain? Why do you suppose God revealed himself to them that day?*
- *Where or when in our faith lives do we get to see the Lord?*

Psalm 116:12-19

We often ask the question, "What do you give the person who has everything?" The psalmist questioned what he might be able to give to the Lord for all of the wonderful gifts and benefits the Lord had given to him. The reality is that there is nothing we can give to God — he is the one who has everything because he made everything. The one thing we can give is not material; we can give our hearts to him and praise his holy name.

- *Why does God desire our thanks and praise? Why is it important for us to express our thanks and to praise him?*

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

St. Paul was concerned in his day that believers took the Lord's Supper seriously — as individuals and as the community of faith. He drew on Israel's history of idolatry connected to holy meals (10:7). Sexual immorality associated with feasts and festivals was a serious issue.

Writing about this in his first letter to the church in Corinth, Paul wanted to make clear that eating the bread and drinking the wine was nothing less than full participation in the blood of Jesus. The one who shed his own blood for the sake of sinners is the one with whom we are a part. We are all one in Christ, we are his body, and care ought to be taken to preserve the sanctity of the Lord's Supper.

- *In what ways do we as the Body of Christ in the world participate in his life, death, and resurrection?*
- *We are truly happy to receive the forgiveness of sin that comes with partaking of the Holy Supper, but are we as thrilled to participate in bearing the cross of Christ as we participate with him through his body and blood? Why or why not?*

Mark 14:12-26

Jesus sent his disciples into Jerusalem in search of a place for them to share the Passover meal. He gave them very specific instructions about who to find and what to ask for. His disciples were obedient to his wishes and prepared the meal for the group. When it was time to eat, Jesus told his friends that one of them would betray him. None of them knew who it would be and even wondered about themselves.

- *Why did Jesus say that the one would betray him would have been better off if he had never been born? Is that too harsh? Was it true?*

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper at that last meal they shared together. He told them to take and eat the bread, that it was his body. He instructed them to take and drink from the cup, calling it the blood of the covenant. Then he told them he would not drink again of the fruit of the vine until he was in the kingdom of God.

- *What do you suppose the disciples thought he was talking about? When will Jesus partake of the wine once again?*

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