

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:
A Service of Questions and Answers**

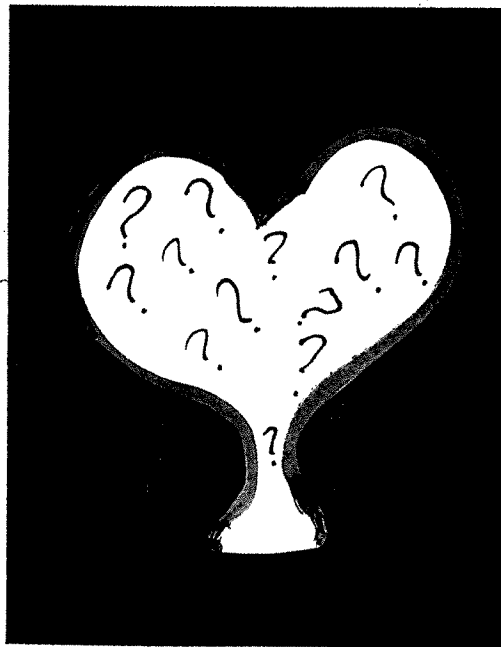
**April 2, 2026
7 PM**

This evening 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. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with His disciples, but the central focus is His commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed His disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

GATHERING

GREETING *(Also projected)*

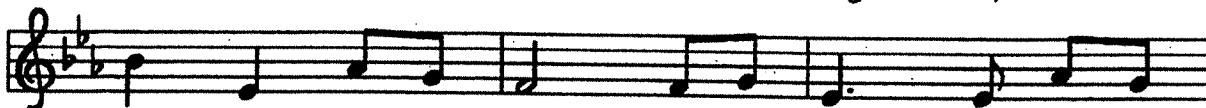
- P) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C) And also with you.



HYMN "LOAVES WERE BROKEN, WORDS WERE SPOKEN"



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

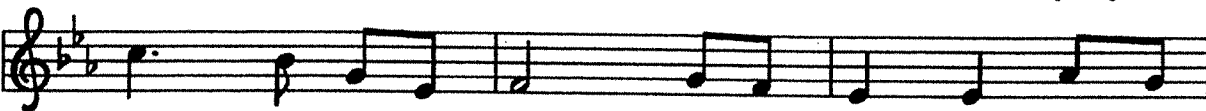


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Also projected)*

P) Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L) You make a new covenant with Your people. Gather Your church around word and table in love and promise as these three holy days enfold us. Open us to behold the mystery of our salvation. Mercii God,

C) receive our prayer.

L) You give us our daily bread, fruit of the earth and work of human hands. Bless those who labor and tend to their crops and those who prepare our meals. Strengthen us to advocate for food justice and a fair distribution of resources. Merciful God,

C) receive our prayer.

L) You, our Savior and Teacher, stoop down to us in servant love. Inspire national and local leaders (*especially*) with a renewed sense of public service. Increase in them a humility to serve with equity and fairness. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

C) receive our prayer.

P) You incline Your ear to us in every need. Befriend all who are lonely. Comfort those who grieve. Soothe any who are anxious. Console all who are distressed. Graciously tend to the hurts of Your children who suffer in body, mind, and spirit (*especially*). Merciful God,

C) receive our prayer.

L) You inspire Your people to praise in word, song, and art. We give thanks for artists whose gifts enrich the church's worship. Kindle in us appreciation for all who beautify our worship space throughout the changing seasons. Merciful God,

C) receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L) Precious in Your sight is the death of Your faithful ones. We remember and give thanks for the those who have died (*especially*). With them, we trust Your promise to love Your own until the end. Merciful God,

C) receive our prayer.

L) We lift our prayers to You, O God, trusting in Your steadfast love and Your promise to renew Your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C) Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE (*Also projected*)

P) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C) And also with you.

(We greet our neighbors with a handshake, hug, or words of peace.)


OFFERING

OFFERING

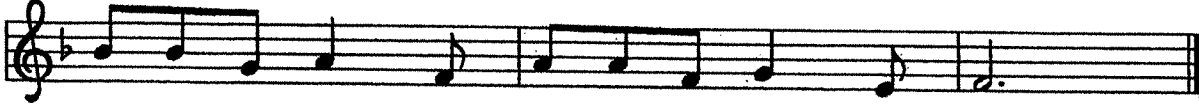
SONG

"JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE"

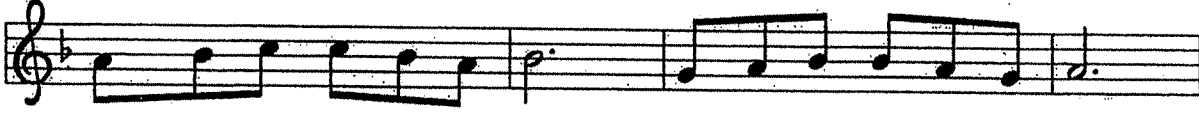
Refrain




Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

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QUESTION #1

How can I make a return on all that the Lord has done for me?

REFLECTION

ANSWER

Psalm 116

I love the LORD because He has heard
my voice and my supplications.
Because He inclined His ear to me,
therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the Name of the LORD,
"O LORD, I pray, save my life!"
Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is merciful.

The LORD protects the simple;
 when I was brought low, He saved me.
 Return, O my soul, to Your rest,
 for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
 For You have delivered my soul from death,
 my eyes from tears,
 my feet from stumbling.
 I walk before the LORD
 in the land of the living.
 I kept my faith, even when I said,
 "I am greatly afflicted";
 I said in my consternation,
 "Everyone is a liar."

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

I will lift up the cup of salvation
 and call on the Name of the LORD;
 I will pay my vows to the LORD
 in the presence of all His people.
 Precious in the sight of the LORD
 is the death of His faithful ones.
 O LORD, I am Your servant;
 in Your servant, the child of Your serving girl.
 You have loosed my bonds.
 I will offer to You a thanksgiving sacrifice
 and call on the Name of the LORD.
 I will pay my vows to the LORD
 in the presence of all His people,
 In the courts of the house of the LORD,
 in your midst, O Jerusalem.
 Praise the LORD!

- L) The Word of the Lord.
- C) Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"SHEPHERD ME, O GOD"

ELW 780

By Marty Haugen

Refrain

Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from
 death in - to life.

God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
 rest in the mead-ows of faith-ful-ness and love, I
 walk by the qui-et wa-ters of peace. *Refrain*

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QUESTION #2

Lord, are You going to wash my feet?

REFLECTION

ANSWER

John 13:1-11

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands and that He had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, took off His outer robe, and tied a towel around Himself. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around Him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to Him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not ~~my feet~~ only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For He knew who was to betray Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."

- L) The Word of the Lord.
- C) Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"SHEPHERD ME, O GOD"

By Marty Haugen

Refrain



Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from



death in - to life.



Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you



lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my



spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.

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QUESTION #3

Do you know what I have done to you?

REFLECTION

ANSWER

John 13:12-17; 31-35

After He had washed their feet, had put on His robe, and had reclined again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them." When He had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in Him. If God has been glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself and will glorify Him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for Me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you,

'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

L) The Word of the Lord.

C) Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"SHEPHERD ME, O GOD"

(Psalm 23)

By Marty Haugen

Refrain

Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from
death in - to life.
Though I should wan-der the val - ley of death, I
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Refrain

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QUESTION #4

What is that you have done?

REFLECTION

CONFESSION *(Also projected)*

P) Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from

loving God and each other. We have heard God ask us, "What is that you have done?" (*Gen. 3:13*), and we have wondered at the power of sin in this world and in ourselves. We grieve that we betray our Lord. Yet God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P) Most merciful God,

C) we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

P) In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C) Amen.

ANSWER

John 3:11-21

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive Our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the One who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Those who believe in Him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the Name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the Light and do not come to the Light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those

who do what is true come to the Light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

L) The Word of the Lord.

C) Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"SHEPHERD ME, O GOD"

By Marty Haugen

Refrain

Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from
death in - to life.
You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of
ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

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MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Also projected*)

P) Where is our God?

C) **God is here in this place.**

P) Where are your hearts?

C) **We give them to the Lord.**

P) What are we to do in the presence of our God?

C) **We shall give our thanks and praise.**

P) Praise and thanks go to You, O God, for since the beginning of time Your people have wondered what Your Spirit could bring forth: Sky and sea? Sun and moon? Land, plants and animals? People in Your divine image? The answer is that everything You made was good.

- C) From the first days the Israelites were enslaved, they questioned if Your power would set them free. When they were hungry and You sent them mysterious food, they asked "What is it?" You answered their questions with goodness and life-sustaining care.**
- P) Out of Your love for our salvation, You sent to us Jesus, a savior who welcomed questions about the faith. When everyday people met Him and asked, "Are You the Messiah?" When religious leaders heard His teachings and wondered, "Can these words come from the God we know?" Is our God loving? Does our God work for the good of those who wait for justice? Does our God bring new life to those who have died?**
- C) The answers were and continue to be yes, yes, yes.**
- P) On the night before Jesus died, the disciples asked questions and were hungry for answers. They wondered where they should prepare the meal and what would happen next. As Jesus spoke of impending betrayal, each of them wrestled with a personal question: Is it me? What Jesus did around a table that night meant that they never had to worry about those questions again.**
- Jesus' answer was to take bread. He gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me. Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me.**
- C) When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we never have to question Your love for us, O Lord. Send Your Spirit into this meal and our hearts, so that we will delight in what You have done and joyfully wonder what You shall make of us today.**

LORD'S PRAYER *(Also projected)*

- L) Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray.**
- C) 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.**

INVITATION *(Also projected)*

P) This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come to this meal and be fed.

COMMUNION

WE INVITE TO THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION all baptized Christians who have made confession of their sins and who believe CHRIST is truly present in the bread and wine to give His FORGIVENESS and strength. If you share in these beliefs, CHRIST Himself invites you to the feast so that in Him you might experience the GRACEFUL life. Ushers will direct you to kneel at the altar to receive both bread and wine. Pastor will place the bread in your hand and communion assistants will offer you wine from either a common cup or a pre-filled glass. For those unable to drink wine, pre-filled glasses of white grape juice have been placed in the center of the communion tray. For those who require gluten-free wafers, they are available upon request.

*As the ministers give the bread and cup to each communicant,
they say these words:*

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen.***

COMMUNION SONG "TASTE AND SEE"

Refrain



Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh;



taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.



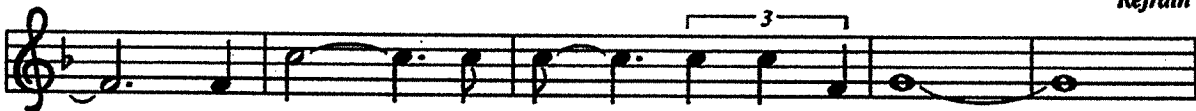
- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times.
- 2 Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me.
- 3 Wor-ship . . . the Lord, all you peo-ple.



Praise shall al - ways be on my lips;
To - geth - er let us all praise God's name.
You'll want for noth - ing . . . if you ask.



my soul shall glo - ry in the Lord;
I called the Lord, . . . who an - swered me;
Taste and see . . . that the Lord is good;



for God has been so good to me.
from all my trou - bles I was set free.
in God we need put all our trust.

Refrain

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING *(Also projected)*

P) May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of His body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

C) Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Also projected)*

P) Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament You strengthen us with the saving power of Your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of Your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of Your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C) Amen.

QUESTION #5

Lord, why can I not follow You now?

CHOIR ANTHEM/REFLECTION *Once I Ached for Thee* arr. by Arlen Clarke
Soprano: Ruth Bowden

ANSWER

JOHN 13:36-38


Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied Me three times."

HYMN

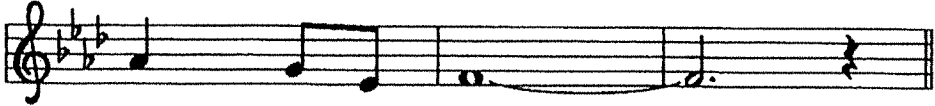
"SHEPHERD ME, O GOD"

By Marty Haugen


Refrain




Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from



death in - to life.




Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

