

God's Love Is Shown

A Series of Services for Lent and Holy Week

Maundy Thursday: Selfless Love

Order of Service

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, so you also are to love one another. By this will all people know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35

Opening Hymn ... Just As I Am *LSB #570*

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Invocation and Litany

P In the name of the Father,

C Who selflessly sent His one and only Son to be our servant.

P and of the Son,

C Who bent down and washed the disciples' feet.

P and of the Holy Spirit,

C Who continues to dwell in the bodies of sinful people to serve them by making them holy. Amen! Amen! Amen!

Confession and Absolution

P Tonight, let us confess that our love for the Savior and others has often failed because we have not let the Savior's selfless love have its way with us. Let us ask Him for forgiveness so that His love for us may transform us from selfish sinners into selfless servants.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination)

P Selfless Savior, Lord Jesus,

C On this night you showed us what true selfless love was all about. Yet, instead of taking your example, we continue our selfish ways. You served your disciples by washing their feet and giving them Your true body and blood. We look the other way when there is someone who needs serving. We are selfish human beings who don't deserve anything from you. We throw ourselves at your feet, and we beg for your mercy. According to your endless mercy and grace, and because of your selfless love we are bold to ask you to forgive us for all of these grievous faults. By your grace, transform our selfishness into selflessness that we may love you above all others and love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

P Our servant Savior, Jesus Christ, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped but made himself nothing. Being a selfless servant he gave up his life on the cross so that you would not die forever. By the grace of God and as a called and ordained servant of the Word, in the stead and by the command of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C Amen! Amen! Amen!

Hymn of Praise ... Lord Jesus Think On Me *LSB #610*

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me, Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity Point out Your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me, That, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see, And share Your joy at last.

Old Testament Reading ... Leviticus 9:9-18

Epistle Reading ... Philippians 2:4-8

Gospel Reading ... John 13:1-38

Sermon Hymn ... Blest Be the Ties That Bind *LSB #649*

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.

When here our pathways part, We suffer bitter pain;
Yet one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives Our courage by the way;
While each in expectation lives And waits to see the day.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

Sermon

Hymn of Response ... You Are the Way *LSB #526*

You are the way; through You alone can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; your Word alone True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.

You are the life; the empty tomb proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.

Prayers

P Father in heaven, your selfless love for us caused you to send your one and only Son to our sinful earth to suffer and die on our behalf. Remind us of that love daily that we may show and share your love with everyone around us, even our enemies. Lord, in your selfless love,

C Hear our prayer.

P Lord Jesus, your selfless love for your church is evident in the love that the members of the church show to each other and to the world. Give to your church your light and your peace so that it may be even more evident to others in our homes, communities and throughout the world. Lord, in your selfless love,

C Hear our prayer.

P Lord God, you chasten and you heal, you give life and you take it away. Blessed be your name. Bless those who mourn the loss of loved ones this day with the hope of the resurrection. Heal all who need healing in your own way and in your own time. Give peace to all who are troubled in mind or spirit, and fill us with your selfless love and a peace that is above all human understanding. Lord, in your selfless love.

C Hear our prayer. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion (From DS III, p. 194)

Benediction

Closing Hymn ... Go to Dark Gethsemane *LSB #436*

Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes; Savior, teach us so to rise.