Maundy Thursday
April 1, 2021
Pastor Elaine Hewes, Presiding

Prelude: *Après un rêve*" Gabriel Fauré

Connie Mayo and Franklin Nino

Leader: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and all the forces of evil that keep us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we are called in our baptisms.

Despite the many ways we fall short in our calling to love God and the world God so loves, we trust God's unfailing mercy to receive us still, and to conceive in us the Spirit of Christ. 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.

Most merciful God,

Congregation: **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 heart;
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.

Leader: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us
even when we were dead to sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power
through the Holy Spirit;
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Congregation: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day:
Leader: Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal,
Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another
as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts,

and give us the will to serve others as he was servant of us all,
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Hymn ELW *712* *Lord, whose love in humble service (in back of the bulletin)*

First Lesson: Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. [Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.] This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Psalm 116

1 I love the LORD, for he heard my cry of supplication.
2 Yes! he did incline his ear to me on the day that I cried.
3 The narrowing walls of death pressed in on me; the straits of Sheol seized me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
4 Then I called on the name of the LORD:
"O LORD, save my life!"

5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.
6 The LORD protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

7Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
8Yes! you have delivered my life from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
9I walk before the LORD in the land of the living!

10I kept my faith, so, yes, I will now speak:
"I was beaten down with affliction
11I said in my panic, 'Everyone is a liar.'"

12What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?
13I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

14My vows to the LORD I will fulfill-- here in front of all his people.

15Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.
16O LORD, Yes I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.
17To you I present a thanksgiving offering and call on the name of the LORD.

18My vows to the LORD I will fulfill-- here in front of all his people,
19in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Hallelujah!

Interlude *Interlude* Ernest Chausson

Connie Mayo and Franklin Nino

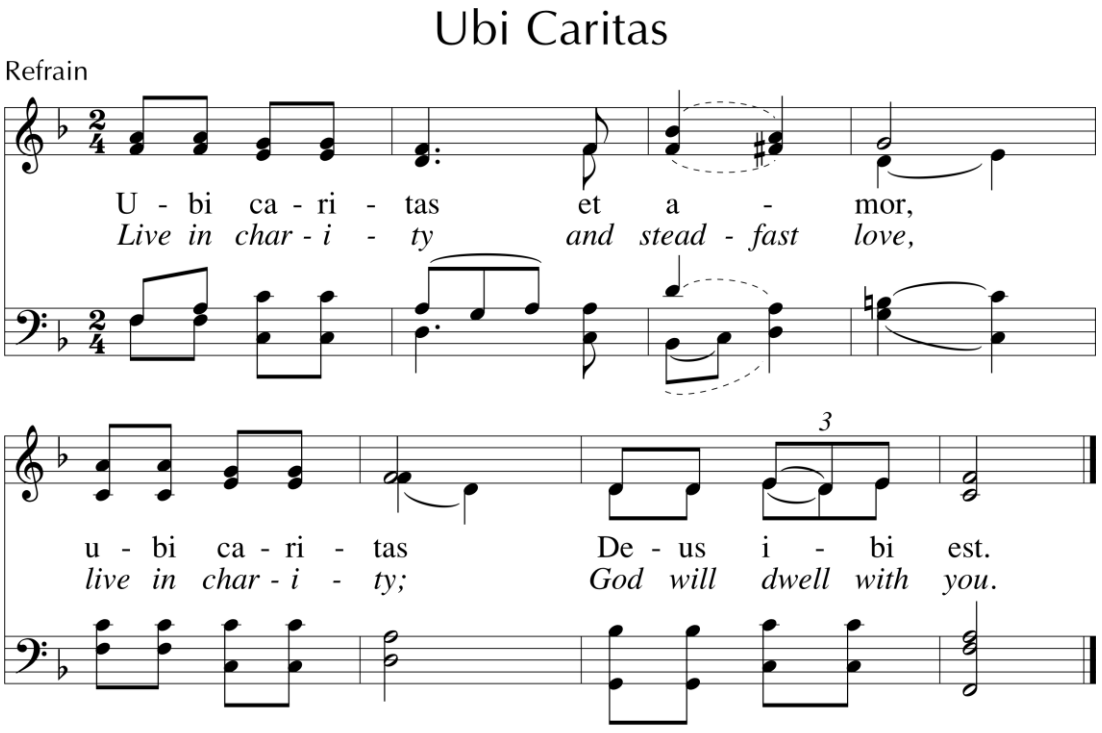
Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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 put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. 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 the table, 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."
After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, 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, servants 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.
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."
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection Pastor Elaine Hewes

Washing of Hands



Text: 1 Corinthians 13:2-8; *Where charity and love are found, God is there;* Taizé Community, 1978
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Prayer after Handwashing
O God, you strengthen all love and are pleased by it. Your son bent down in humility toward us, so that we could stand up and be raised to you. As we, your rejoicing family, continue to grow in faith, grant that we may practice love so actively, that we may always remain united in you. We ask this through your precious Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: United by the servant love of God in Christ, we pray this holy night for the needs of the world.

Leader: For all leaders everywhere, that your wisdom would guide them in their decision-making for the well-being of all peoples and all living things.
Lord in your mercy,
Congregation: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all those afflicted by injustice, hunger, poverty, prejudice, natural disaster or violence, that the power of your Spirit would increase in us a commitment to work for justice, peace and dignity on their behalf.
Lord in your mercy,
Congregation: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all those suffering from the devastations of Covid-19, that your healing presence would strengthen those who are sick, comfort those who mourn, and grant patience and hope to those who care for them.
Lord in your mercy,
Congregation: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: For our suffering earth, stripped, violated, burned and plundered by us, that your passionate faithfulness to your creation will awaken us to stop, repair and protect.
Lord in your mercy,
Congregation: **hear our prayer**

Leader: For those who suffer from mental illness, from despair, from fears that visit in the night hours, that your loving embrace would grant them comfort and peace.
Lord in your mercy,
Congregation: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all those who will die this night, that your Holy wings would enfold them and fill them with the light of Christ.
Lord in your mercy,
Congregation: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all those we name in our hearts before you, either silently or aloud…

Hear these and all our prayers, O God, in the name of the one who loves us to the end, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Congregation: **Amen.**

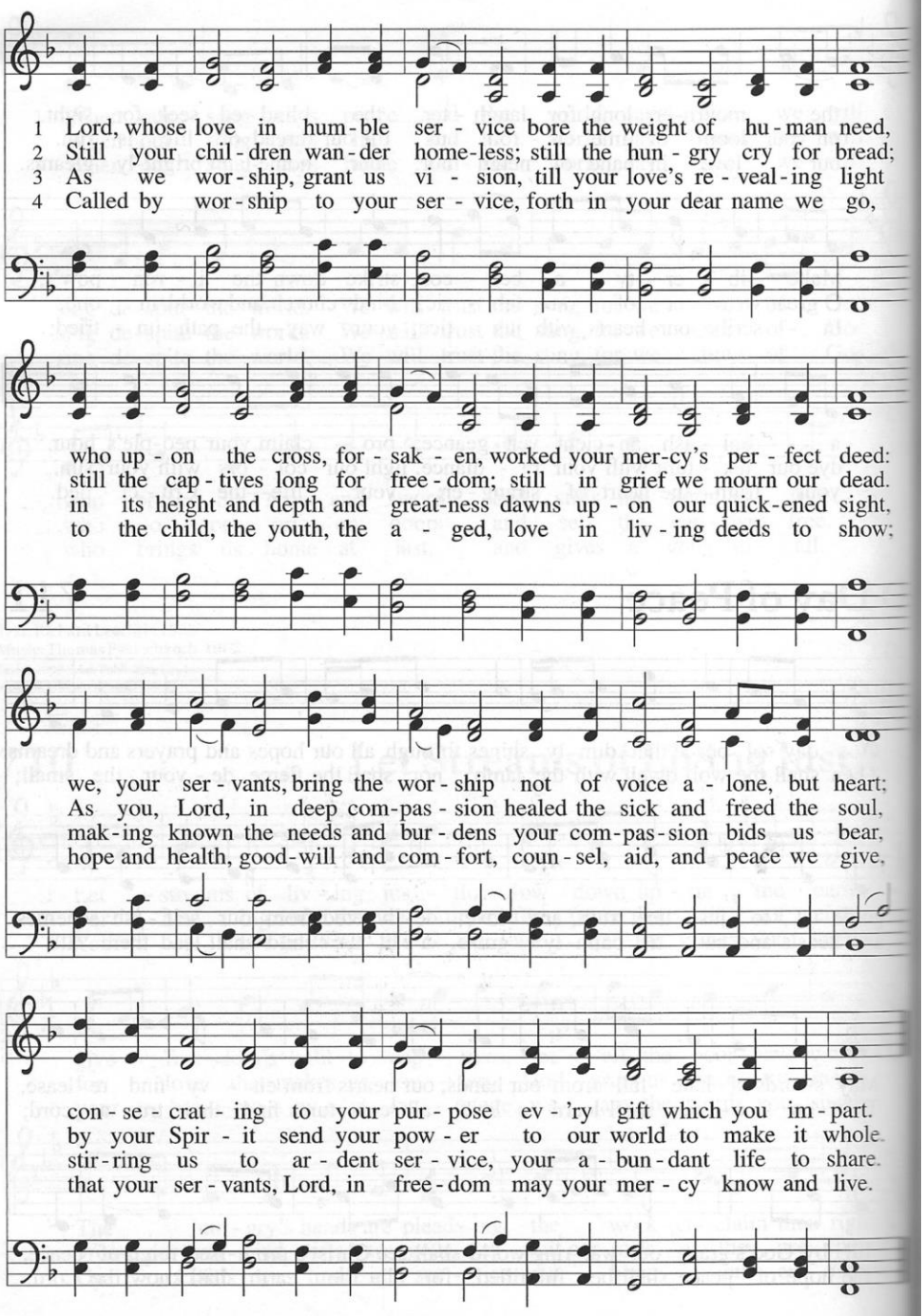
Blessing

Stripping of the altar

Please leave in silence

Maundy Thursday service from "Worship in a Time of Physical Distancing" published by The Lutheran World Federation. Used with permission.

712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



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