

Grace Lutheran Community, 6th April 2023: Maundy Thursday

The sermon text for today is based on the text John 13

Today is about service. There is no other way we can live in Jesus without serving one another. As we serve each other we serve our Lord. We follow Him into acts of service because He first served us. He didn't come to be served by to serve. We don't love first, we love because God first loved us and today's text is full of God's love in action. We say our Lutheran church is where love comes to life. Let us then live this not because we follow what the Lutheran church says rather because Jesus calls us to follow Him and serve each other.

This is the way others will know who we are in life, in our acts of love in action- service – not as a program but as a way of life. Then others will know whom we follow because of our love, for each other.

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After

that, 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 said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. "A new command I give you: Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

We are served by Jesus. Just ponder that for a moment. The king of all, Jesus, the messiah, the son of the living God, serves you. He comes to you giving up Himself for you. He died so you might live. He suffers so you are forgiven and set free of eternal damnation and a forfeit of your soul.

Friends be at peace, for God loved the world as the world hated His gift of Jesus.

Go in peace and serve Him as you serve each other, not just here in our church community but everywhere in the smallest of words and deeds.

Amen.