



Life On the Edge Of Faith
Maundy Thursday Worship
April 6, 2023

Order of Worship

Prelude by Faith Ringers “Were You There?”

The Opening Hymn “Go to Dark Gethsemane” 347 ELW

The Opening Litany (Isaiah 65: 17-20, 24)

The First Reading Exodus 12:1- 4, 11-14

The Service of Public Confession and Absolution

Pastor: From the first day of Lent, when we felt the filth of the ashes placed on our foreheads, we have allowed the awareness of our sin to grow.

Throughout these six weeks, as that comprehension grew, so did our horror at our own alienation from each other and from God. But even as our understanding of our separation grew, our understanding of our personal need for God increased. And it was during these past six weeks that we remembered that, even while we were in awe of our own weakness and immorality, God is with us and has redeemed us.

People: In coming here this evening, we declare to God, to the world, and to each other our need for forgiveness. To have the courage to make such a declaration, we have not only faced our sins and called them by their right names, we have realized that God has the only way for us out of our trap, a trap which we ourselves set, again and again, by means of our sin.

Pastor: Therefore, let us confess our sins to each other and to God and hear his word of forgiveness.

People: Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord

Right Side: When we fail to bring your love into consideration or when we slip into apathy or despair about the world,

Left side: When we fail to take strength and courage from the example of your Son,

People: Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord.

Right Side: When by our inaction, we allow injustice, greed, selfishness, and even cruelty to go unchecked,

Left Side: When by our inaction, we allow your truth to go unspoken and undefended, ignored, and mocked,

People: Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord.

Right Side: When with our apathy and despair, we fall into dangerous, abusive, and destructive habits,

Left Side: Or allow our hopelessness to turn into cynicism and the base desire for power, wealth, or other forms of earthly corruptible security,

People: Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord.

Right Side: When in our weakness and fear, we allow ourselves to be dragged down into a place in which we see no way to live which does not involve sinful behavior,

Left Side: And perhaps find our strength and our courage in sin instead of your goodness,

People: Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord.

Right Side: When we find profane power and treacherous security in acts of injustice, greed, selfishness, and cruelty,

Left Side: And allow others to pay the cost for that power and security,

People: Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord.

Right Side: When we neglect the truth which your Son died to show us, when we abuse those who try to spread that truth with words and actions with our fearful doubt and our lack of support,

Left Side: When we show the world how little your love really means to us,

People: Though we are unworthy, you have forgiven us, Lord.

Pastor: We lay our lives, unworthy of even a glance from you, at your feet, knowing that we will receive your mercy, not because anything we have done or can hope to do but because of your Son's sacrifice which paid our debt.

People: Humbly, we give you thanks. Amen.

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Senior Choir "Father, Let This Pass"

The Gospel Lesson Matthew 26: 17-29

The Sermon

The Sermon Hymn "Existing on The Edge Of Faith" (To the tune of #619, ELW 619)
Existing on the edge of faith,

Christ's promised peace alone we seek
Grant us the strength to look at you,
We fear our lives are frail and weak.

Our hearts are opened to your love
When we remember our dear Lord
And his giving over life for us
Our peace forever to afford.

Teach us the humble road to walk.
Open our hearts to your embrace
Then we can show the world your love,
With acts of mercy, joy, and grace.

The Prayers of The People

Pastor: ... Our heads deeply bowed,

People: We pray to you, O Lord.

Pastor: Standing on the edge of faith, we beg you to hold us up, dear Lord, with
your gift of peace and hear our prayers.

People: Amen.

The Offering

The Words of Institution For Maundy Thursday

The Lord's Prayer

Distribution Hymn "Ah, Holy Jesus" 349 ELW & "Stay With Me" 348 ELW (sing 3
times)

The Prayer After Communion

Pastor: We give you thanks, ... **People: Amen.**

Stripping of the Altar (Psalm 22)

(Congregation may leave in silence)