

## **Maundy Thursday: “Though terror and grief surround us”**

### **Texts:**

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

John 13:1-7, 31b-35

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

**Focus Statement:** Though terror and grief surround us, God’s steadfast, relentless love endures forever. We rejoice to know that one day this love will prevail, and all creation will worship the One whom God has exalted. We celebrate this love in remembering the Passover, gathering around the Lord’s Table, and following Jesus’ example of footwashing.

### **Gathering at Tables**

**Visual Focus:** Tables in fellowship area are set with bread, soup, cheese and fresh fruit. Bread and juice for communion are placed in the center of the table. Pitchers, basins and towels are available for footwashing. Invite participants to stand at the table for the invocation, scripture reading and prayer.

**Opening Hymn:** “Lead on, O cloud of Presence” HWB 419

**Call to Worship:** *(Child)* “Why do we meet in this way? What does it mean?”

**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 12:1-14

**Prayer:** Lord God, on this night we remember how Israel was delivered from slavery, and we give you thanks. We confess our own need for deliverance from sin, and we give thanks for Christ’s body broken for our healing. We eat and drink with thanksgiving as we remember your love. Write your love upon our hearts as we journey with you through your passion this night.  
AMEN

### **Fellowship Meal and Communion**

**Song:** “Be present at our table, Lord” HWB 457

People share bread, cheese, soup and fruit. Share stories of thankfulness for God’s relentless love.

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

**Hymn:** “Let us break bread together” HWB 453

**Prayer:** HWB 784, 786 or 787

**Share bread and cup** with song, “Eat this bread” HWB 471

### **Footwashing**

**Scripture reading:** John 13:1-7, 31b-35

Scripture may be dramatized. In congregations where footwashing is customary, members may also wash each other's feet. Consider pairing adults and children (even if they have not been baptized) as an opportunity for mentoring.

**Hymn:** "Jesus took a towel" HWB 449

**Sending:**

Because of the unity  
of divinity  
in the crucified Christ,  
the God who is  
self-giving and receiving  
accepts the fragment  
human condition  
into the divine life for  
healing, and the  
humanity of Christ  
gathers into himself  
all the forces of alienation  
and destruction  
active in his own death.

All the dualisms  
which divide, separate,  
cause pain, and support  
oppression and lack  
of communion  
with the others are all  
gathered together  
at the crucifixion,  
and Christ receives them...

Everything  
converges in him,  
and in his persona  
and activity  
everything finds  
wholeness and meaning.\*

—*Patricia Wilson-Kastner*

Go silently in the peace of Christ  
and meditate on these things.

**Service prepared by Marlene Kropf**

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