



**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AND COMMUNION**  
**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Le Sueur, Minnesota**  
**Thursday, April 1, 2021**

*Based on "Characters of Holy Week", three minute meditations presented on radio during Lent  
by Pastors Kent Meyer and Rosemary Rocha*

**OPENING MUSIC**      Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence  
Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood;  
He will give to all the faithful, his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven, spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the light of light descendeth, from the realms of endless days,  
That the powers of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Sacred silence, holy moment, haunting seconds. Are you prepared to come to the table of Jesus Christ, whose life was sacrificed for love, for us, for the world?

**All: By the grace of God, we are.**

One: A questioning promise, a broken covenant, a wondering band of followers, a worried Messiah. Won't you wait here awhile?

**All: By the grace of God, we will.**

One: Then let us praise God, even in this hour of sacred silence: filled. Holy moment: overflowing. Haunting seconds: brimming.

**HYMN and LIGHTING of CANDLES**

*Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*

Come my Way, my Truth, my Life, such a way as gives us breath;  
Such a truth as ends all ends all strife, such a life as conquers death.

Come my Light, my Feast, my Strength; such a light as shows a feast;  
Such a feast as mends in length, such a strength as makes a guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move;  
Such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.

*Characters of Holy Week*

**Candle 1** Caiaphas— candle extinguished.

Pastor Kent

**Music** **Were You There**

Were you there when they crucified my Lord, were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

**Candle 2** Mary Magdalene— candle extinguished.

Pastor Rosemary

**Music** **Were You There**

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

**Candle 3** Peter— candle extinguished.

**Were You There**

Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Oh, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

**Candle 4** Judas— candle extinguished.

**Were You There**

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

*With Christ at the Last Supper*

**INVITATION**

**One:** Sacred silence, holy moment, haunting seconds. Are you prepared to come to the table of Jesus Christ, whose life was sacrificed for love, for us, for the world?

**All:** **By the grace of God, we are.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, we gather in this hour as friends gathered with Jesus long ago. Remind us in the breaking of bread of our need and your need and of our need for you and each other. Deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us and our world. In Jesus Christ, our friend and redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

**\*COMMUNION HYMN**

*Hymn #199 – Alas and Did My Savior Bleed (2 verses)*

Alas and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die?  
Would God devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

But tears of grief cannot repay the debt of love I owe,  
Here Christ I give myself away as all that I can do.

**RESPONSIVE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**      Luke 22:14-20

**One:** When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,

**All:** **I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.**

**One:** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

**All:** **Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**

**One:** And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

**All:** This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**K:** Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us gathered here with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit.

**R:** **Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, faithful to you in life, in death, in life beyond death. Amen**

**SHARING OF BREAD and CUP**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts and we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)**

**Almighty God, thank you for your small and mighty acts of deliverance when you enable us to cross over from despair to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from death to life. Thank you for the deep love of Jesus, which moved him to risk everything trusting that even in the darkest moments, the power of your love would shine though; thank you for what we experience in receiving these symbols of the life he gave. Bless us and make us worthy of this great gift. Amen.**

**Candle 5** The Servant Girl with Peter– candle extinguished.

**Music** **Were You There**

Were you there when they crucified my Lord, were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

**Candle 6** Pilate– candle extinguished.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

**Candle 7** Mary the Mother of Jesus– candle extinguished.

**Music** **Were You There – 1 verse**

Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Oh, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

**Candle 8** Jesus – candle extinguished.

**Were You There – 1 verse**

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

**Please feel free to spend time in silence.**