

# The Wisdom Way

## Sent to Serve



Holy Week  
a holy path for 21<sup>st</sup> century seekers

Prelude

# GATHERING

*We are seated.*

Hymn - Nada te turbe



*We stand as able.*

*Presider:* Blessed be God, the Source of life.

*Assembly:* **Courageous love is the way of Christ and the path of life.**

Hymn of Praise - Bless the Lord



COLLECT

*Presider:* Let us pray together:

**Beloved,**

**life is a banquet overflowing from the heart of your dance of Love.**

**On this night,**

**Jesus is now ash from the Lover's fire.**

**Christ alone remains,**

**who invites all to the table spread upon the sea of generosity.**

**Freely, Love pours forth life.**

**This Soul is free, supremely free,**

**in the stock,**

**in all her branches**

**and all the fruits of her branches.**

**Nothing but sweet flowing wine remains**

**and the Soul says:**

**Drink this, all of you:**

**This is my life Blood**

**a joyous Covenant from which flows forgiveness of sin and life renewed.**

**Remember, you can be no less for me. Amen.**

# Telling the Story

*We sit.*

EXODUS 12.1-4, (5-10), 11-14

*Reader* A reading from the book of Exodus.

Our God said to Aaron and Moses in the land of Egypt, “This month will be the first of all months to you. You will count it as the first month of the year. Say this to the whole community of Israel: On the tenth day of this month, every family in Israel will take an animal from the flock, one for each household. If your household is too small for a whole animal join with your next door neighbor, and divide the animal as the number of persons requires. The animal must be a year-old male without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats. You must keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, then the whole community of Israel is to slaughter it at sunset. Some of the blood must then be taken and applied to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house where the animal is eaten. “That night you will eat the roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled, but roasted over the fire – the head, feet and entrails. You must not leave any over until morning. Whatever is left in morning you are to burn. This is how you are to eat it: with your belt buckled, your sandals on your feet, and a staff in your hand; you will eat it in haste. It is the Passover of Our God. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night and strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I will execute this judgment on all the gods of Egypt: I am Your God. The blood will mark the houses where you live. When I see the blood I will pass over you, and no harm will come to you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day will be for you a memorial day, and you must celebrate it as a feast to Your God. All generations are to observe it forever as a feast day.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

*Assembly:* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 116.1, 10-17

**Receive my love, O Beloved,  
You who hear my voice and my supplication.**

**What shall I render to You for all  
your goodness to me?**

**I will drink the chalice of Love  
and praise You, who have done wondrous things;**

**I will bear witness to You, O Bread of Life,  
in the presence of all the people.**

**Precious to You are all who live in Love,  
who abandon themselves into your loving care.**

**O Beloved, consider me your friend; I long to co-create with You.  
For You have loosed the bonds of fear in me.**

**I will offer to You the gift of gratitude  
and acknowledge your Loving Presence with joy.**

**I will bear witness to You, O Giver of Life,  
in the presence of all the people,**

**In the Holy Temple of my heart, in your midst, O Beloved,  
Praises be to You! For You dwell in all receptive hearts!**

**1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26**

*Reader:* A reading from Paul's letter to the community at Corinth.

What I have passed on to you, I received from Christ – that on the night he was betrayed, our Savior Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying, “This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and said, “This cup is the New Covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it do it in remembrance of me.” For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim Jesus' death until Christ comes.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

*Assembly:* **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand as able.*

Hymn – Ubi Caritas

**JOHN 13:1-17, 31B-35**

*Reader:* A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

*Assembly:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

It was before the Feast of Passover, and Jesus realized that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to Abba God. He had always loved his own in this world, but now he showed how perfect this love was. The Devil had already convinced Judas Iscariot, begot of Simon, to betray Jesus. So during supper, Jesus – knowing that God had put all things into his own hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God – rose from the table, took off his clothes and wrapped a towel around his waist. He then poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and dry them with the towel that was around his waist. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said, “Rabbi,

you're not going to wash my feet, are you?" Jesus answered, "You don't realize what I am doing right now, but later you'll understand." Peter replied, "You'll never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me." Simon Peter said to Jesus, "Then, Rabbi, not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus said, "Any who have taken a bath are clean all over and only need to wash their feet-and you're clean, though not every one of you." For Jesus knew who was to betray him. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After washing their feet, Jesus put his clothes back on and returned to the table. He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me 'Teacher,' and 'Sovereign' – and rightly, for so I am. If I, then – your Teacher and Sovereign – have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. The truth of the matter is, no subordinate is greater than the superior; no messenger outranks the sender. Once you know all these things, you'll be blessed if you put them into practice. Now is the Chosen One glorified and God is glorified as well; If God has been glorified, God will in turn glorify the Chosen One and will do so very soon. My little children, I won't be with you much longer. You'll look for me, but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to you: where I am going, you cannot come. I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

*Assembly:* **Thanks be to God.**

*A period of silence follows the Gospel, begun and ended with the ringing of the bowl.  
Allow your attention to drop in and down and rest upon the Divine breath breathing you.*

*We sit.*

## BRIEF REFLECTION

*We stand as able.*

## WASHING & ANOINTING OF HANDS FOR SERVICE

*Presider:* Jesus supped with his disciples  
and washed their feet.  
Afterwards, he said to them:  
Do you know what I,  
your teacher,  
have done to you?  
I have given you an example,  
that you should do as I have done.

*Assembly:* **Peace is my last gift to you,  
my own peace I now leave with you;  
peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

*Presider:* I give you a new commandment:  
Love one another as I have loved you.

***Assembly:* Peace is my last gift to you,  
my own peace I now leave with you;  
peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

*Presider:* By this shall the world know that you are my disciples:  
That you have love for one another.

I invite you forward.

*Please come forward to the baptismal waters for washing and anointing of hands for service.*

*We stand as able.*

#### HEART OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

In thanksgiving for the community of faithful seekers, may love for the truth guide all we do.  
We pray.

**Christ of compassion, may your mercy be our path.**

In thanksgiving for all who are in awe of You, Beloved. May we place the trust of our heart in the way of Christ, so that divisions cease, and we know that we are one as You are one. We pray.

**Christ of compassion, may your mercy be our path.**

In thanksgiving for the service of all communities of faith. May we receive others as Christ and may we share with others our experience of new life through Christ in the Beloved. We pray.

**Christ of compassion, may your mercy be our path.**

In thanksgiving that our unfolding life in Christ is without end. May those whose search feels stagnant or dead know courage of heart. We pray.

**Christ of compassion, may your mercy be our path.**

In thanksgiving for the mysterious power of peace undaunted by a violent world. May the true Spirit of repentance so enlarge our minds and hearts that respect and forbearance become our way of life.

We pray.

**Christ of compassion, may your mercy be our path.**

In thanksgiving for those in positions of public trust [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. May they serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person. We pray.

**Christ of compassion, may your mercy be our path.**

In thanksgiving for the gifts of education, work and exploration. May we use the wealth of creation as a precious resource, and so live our lives that the enslaving and demeaning power of poverty, hunger, and despair withers and dies. We pray.

**Christ of compassion, may your mercy be our path.**

In thanksgiving for this gathered community of faith, may our hearts be open and vulnerable, embodying the courage to love in the face of prejudice, hate, and violence. We pray.

**Christ of compassion, may your mercy be our path.**

In thanksgiving for this very moment as we dedicate to You our families, friends and neighbors. May we trust in your Presence however our lives unfold. We pray.

**Christ of compassion, may your mercy be our path.**

In thanksgiving for all souls who have passed from this life into the mystery of unfolding life in You. We pray.

**Christ of compassion, may your mercy be our path.**

*Silence*

*Presider:* Yours is the majesty,  
Holy One.  
You reign as the power and glory of boundless love,  
now and forever.

*All:* **Amen.**

THE PEACE

*Presider:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*Assembly:* **And also with you.**

HOSPITALITY

Announcements

Fed with Thanksgiving

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

*Presider:* The Beloved is with you

*Assembly:* **And also with you**

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts

*Assembly:* **We lift them to the heavens.**

*Presider:* Let us give thanks.

*Assembly:* **We gratefully lay open our hearts and minds and bodies  
in gratitude and praise.**

*Presider:* It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God,  
source of life and fountain of mercy.  
You fill us and all creation with your blessing  
and feed us with your constant love;  
You redeem us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body.  
Through your Spirit You replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation,  
we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

## SANCTUS

*Presider:* Blessed are You, gracious One,  
creator of the universe and giver of life.  
You form us in your own image  
and call us to dwell in your infinite love.  
You give the world into our care  
that we might be your faithful stewards  
and show forth your bountiful grace.  
But we fail to honor your image  
in one another and in ourselves;  
we often do not see your goodness in the world around us;  
and so we violate your creation,  
abuse one another,  
and reject your love.

Yet You never cease to care for us,  
and prepare the way of life for all people.  
Through Abraham and Sarah  
You call us into covenant with You.  
You deliver us from slavery,  
sustain us in the wilderness,  
and raise up prophets  
to renew your promise of life.

Then, in the fullness of time,  
You send your eternal Word,  
made mortal flesh in Jesus.  
Born into the human family,  
and dwelling among us,  
the Life-Giver reveals your glory.

Giving himself freely to death on the cross,  
he triumphs over evil,  
opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he dies for us,  
Jesus, the Life-Giver, takes bread,  
and when he has given thanks to You,  
he breaks it, and gives it to his friends, and says:  
Take, eat: This is my Body which is being given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
As supper is ending, Jesus takes the cup of wine,  
and when he has given thanks,  
he gives it to them, and says:  
Drink this, all of you:  
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,  
which is being poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering Jesus' death and resurrection,  
we now present to You from your creation  
this bread and this wine.  
By your Holy Spirit may they be for us  
the life of Christ.  
Grant that we who share these gifts  
may be filled with the Holy Spirit  
and live in union with You as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage  
of your daughters and sons,  
that with Paul and Julian and all your saints,  
past, present, and yet to come,  
we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to You be honor, glory, and praise,  
for ever and ever.

**All: AMEN.**

*Presider:* In the Spirit of Christ we now sing,

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Presider:* We break this bread  
to share in the Body of Christ.

*Assembly:* **We who are many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

*Presider:* The Gifts of God.  
All are invited to God's table.

## THE COMMUNION

Communion Hymn

# SENDING FORTH

*We stand as able.*

*Presider:* We are washed by Christ in the waters of baptism.

*Assembly:* **We are anointed for service as the hands of Christ.**

Hymn

*Presider:* Our Celebration continues tomorrow with *The Wisdom Way of Companionship & Cross:  
Good Friday.*

Go in peace to love and serve.

*Assembly:* **Thanks be to God.**

The readings are taken from *The Inclusive Hebrew Scriptures Vol. I, II, and III* and *The Inclusive New Testament* with © permission from:  
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