**Worship Plan for Thursday, March 29, 2018**

Maundy Thursday

LBW Maundy Thursday Setting One

Thursday, March 29, 2018

**Introduction to the day**

~~With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and~~ we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus’ commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord’s table we remember Jesus’ sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

Receiving 1st Communion: Nino and Enzo Plassio (Darryl & Jenny)

Garrett Lewis (Kurt & Lorelei)

Preparing 2019: Abby and Chase Kissinger (Harry & Kirsten)

**Hymn*Where Charity and Love Prevail (TWENTY-FOURTH)* (LBW 126)**

**Children’s Sermon**

How many commandments are there in the Bible? Usually I’d say 10 also… but today, is a special day… it’s the day that Jesus added #11 to the commandments.

Commandments[[1]](#footnote-1), we’re very familiar with the 10 commandments of the Old Testament, the Hebrew Scriptures in the books of Exodus and Deuteronomy.

**Love the Lord Your God!**

1. You shall have no other gods before me.

2. You shall not take the name of God in vain.

3. You shall keep the Sabbath day holy.

**Love Your Neighbor As Yourself!**

4. You shall honor father and mother.

5. You shall not kill.

6. You shall not commit adultery.

7. You shall not steal.

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.

10. You shall not covet his wife, man-servant, maid-servant, cattle, or anything that is his.﻿[[2]](#footnote-2)

Tonight, we remember that there is **another** commandment not on the stone tablets… this one is written on our hearts {Give out foam hearts with this passage on them} **Jesus said I give you a new commandment: that you Love one another just as I have loved you John 13:34-35 SO important that Jesus gave it two times! Jn 15:12-17**

A commandment; an Imperative… Not long ago I was talking with someone who was given a medical diagnosis that changed their life … in fact one of those situations that for a while appear to be life and death… this person wanted to get things in order… now! Facing one’s own imminent death even if just for a little while … changes a person. Their priorities are clear, there is no time for polite chit-chat nor beating around the bush.

Jesus was about to face his own death, he would be arrested in a few hours… he wanted to make the most of the little time he had left with those he loved most. So Jesus got up DURING supper (in John’s gospel this is not yet the festival of Passover). But who gets up DURING a meal to wash sweaty, dirty feet?

Then Jesus makes sure that this confused band of well meaning, but uncomprehending disciples, fully understands this foot washing action Jesus says:

John13:13-17 “13 You call me Teacher and Lord-- and you are right, for that is what I am.

14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16 Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

And then Jesus goes back to the table… but his time is short, so he immediately takes bread and dips the bread in the dish and handing the morsel to Judas; Jesus actually sends Judas out… with the imperative: DO quickly what you are going to do.” (Jn 13:27) So Judas immediately leaves the band of brothers and goes out into the night. (Remember in John’s gospel, going out in the darkness is bad news… *dun, dun, duuuhn)*

At that moment… Jesus exclaims, **NOW** the Son of Man **has been** glorified. In betrayal? In willing obedience to the commandment of the Father to fulfill this divine commandment of eternal life. {commandment in Jn 12:50.}

The imperatives from Jesus are coming fast and directly to the heart now… Where I am going, you cannot come! And Jesus says (John 13:34-35) 34 “I give you a new **commandment**, that you **love one another**. Just as I have loved you, you also should **love one another**. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love for one another**."

Here at the very end of their three years together in ministry on earth… THIS part is so essential that Jesus takes the time to repeat the ‘love one another’ part 3 times and to say the whole new commandment twice! (Jn 15:12) Love one another… {not lightly, not as brothers, not as romantic lovers… but as God first loved}… love one another through hard journeys, love one another through sickness and healing, love one another through betrayal and arrest, love one another to death, and beyond.

This is not a suggestion… it is a command. And it is the ONE that Jesus leaves among his final words to those he loved. This entire day of this great and holy week is so WE also never forget this greatest of the commandments. We have a meal, we wash hands and feet, we dip bread, we ask for forgiveness for betrayal, in fact we strip all the linens and beautiful decorations and symbols from our sanctuary… as a sign of our repentance for our sins. AT the end of the service when there is nothing left to say… we go out into the dark too; we go out in silence… all we have left is what God first gave us; His only begotten Son, the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world… and leave LOVE in it’s place.

“We who receive God’s love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. [Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example the Lord gave us on the night before his death.]

It is, however, in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ’s body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord’s last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord’s gift of himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. The Eucharist (Greek word meaning Thanksgiving) is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.” Sun & Seasons

Until then… when Christ comes again; Let us Love one another; in the way Christ loves us. Amen.

Tonight, we are clearly reminded that there are other commandments for us in the Bible… for instance in the New Testament, John’s gospel holds commandments:

**Commands from Jesus both in word and deed**

**Jesus said I give you a new commandment: that you Love one another just as I have loved you John 13:34-35 twice Jesus gives this one! Jn 15:12-17**

What does this new commandment look like in the life of Jesus?

Go and do likewise

(Go and your son shall live John 4:50; go and wash

and the blind man received his sight Jn 9:7-11

unbind him and let him go Jn 11:44 of Lazarus after resuscitation

go your way and from now on do not sin again Jn 8:11 to woman caught in adultery)

(Follow me John 1:43 Jesus says to Philip and the later disciples)

**Jesus said I give you a new commandment: that you Love one another just as I have loved you John 13:34-35 twice Jesus gives this one! Jn 15:12-17**

*What does this look like in our lives today? continue sermon here*

According to Jesus in Matthew 22:36-39

36 "Teacher, which **commandment** in the law is the greatest?"

37 He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

38 This is the greatest and first **commandment**.

39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Mark 12:28-34

28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which **commandment** is the first of all?"

29 Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;

30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other **commandment** greater than these."

32 Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other';

33 and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'-- this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

( re: the burial of Jesus… Luke 23 they rested according to the commandment – Sabbath)

Hmmm… John 12:42-50

44 Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me.

45 And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.

46 I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.

47 I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge,

49 for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a **commandment** about what to say and what to speak.

50 And I know that his **commandment** is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me."

Go therefore and make disciples of all nation, baptizing them in the name of father, son , and holy spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you (Mt 28:19-20) and lo, I AM with you always, to the end of the age.

Do this in remembrance of me (only in Lk 22:19 and 1 Cor 11:24)

*“An Instruction in these or similar words concludes the Sermon.*

In this Lenten season we have heard our Lord’s call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God’s forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Within the community of his Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God’s love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. [Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example the Lord gave us on the night before his death.]

It is, however, in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ’s body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord’s last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord’s gift of himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. The Eucharist is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.” Sun & Seasons

**Gospel: John 19:23-30**

*The gospel is announced.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. \_\_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_\_ chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

23When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. 24So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,  
 "They divided my clothes among themselves,  
 and for my clothing they cast lots."  
25And that is what the soldiers did.  
Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." 27Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.  
28After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." 29A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. 30When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*After the reading the minister may say:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

Psalm 22?  
 28For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
 and he rules over the nations.  
 29To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
 before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
 and I shall live for him.  
 30Posterity will serve him;  
 future generations will be told about the LORD,  
 31and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
 saying that he has done it.

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| Interactive Group Activities by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick |
| **Sermon Title:**["A New Commandment"](https://www.sermons4kids.com/a_new_commandment.htm)  **Scripture Reading:**John 13:34-35 |
| **MUSICAL LOVE CHAIRS:** When the music stops, the one without a chair and still standing will simply tell a part of the Bible verse or a rule to follow. Then the music begins again... no one is ever out of the game.  **BIBLE VERSE BALLOONS:** Before the class begins, the teacher will put one word from the Bible verse on slips of paper — LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. Roll the pieces of paper up and slip inside a balloon and have all 8 balloons blown up before class. Children will POP their balloon and together as a class they can piece together the Bible verse and then say the verse altogether.  **LOVE RUN:** Before class time, the teacher will hide paper hearts around the room with LOVE quotes them. The quotes should be sayings such as, JESUS LOVES ME, LOVE ONE ANOTHER, JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN, LOVE AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. To begin the game, the teacher will say something like "All children wearing something RED, run and find a heart and bring it back to your circle" or "Children who have shoe strings, run and find a heart." The game continues until all the hearts have been found. Let children tape their hearts to a large poster and begin discussing today's lesson and what each heart says and how it applies to each child with examples from the children!  **HEART BOOKMARKER:** Let each child draw and cut out a medium size heart out of construction paper. Write today's Bible verse or words from today's lesson and decorate with stickers and a ribbon at the top. Stick in their Bibles after finding today's Bible verse in their own Bibles (John 13:34)  **PAPER PLATE LOVE HEARTS:** Each child can be given a paper plate to lightly color and then draw or glue hearts around the edges of the paper plate. Write today's Bible verse in the middle section of the paper plate. LOVE can be drawn in the middle of each heart around the outer edge of the plate, making sure to use a different bright colored marker each time.  **HEART PUPPETS:** Children can tape together 2 matching hearts with enough room at the bottom of the heart to slip their hands or a couple of fingers into the heart to make a heart puppet! One heart can be the JESUS puppet and the other hearts can be the disciples. Have fun telling the story together and then all the heart puppets can say the Bible Verse together at the end.  **PIN THE LOVE ON THE HEART:** Put a large heart-shaped poster on the wall. Blindfold the children as they come to the poster and try to tape or pin the word LOVE on the heart. Discuss what it means to follow Jesus and have his love 'in our hearts'!  **FOLLOW "LOVE" GAME:** Children will line up and the leader will begin to walk with others following, until the teacher blows a whistle or calls out LOVE, etc. Everyone must stop and the leader will say, "I am a follower of Jesus" or will recite the Bible verse. Then that 'leader' will go to the end of the line and a new leader will begin the walk until the whistle blows again. If possible, let each child have an opportunity to be the leader, even if two lines have to be formed to do the exact same thing.  **Song:  "Love One Another" by Charles Kirkpatrick**  [Words and Music](https://www.sermons4kids.com/love_one_another_songsheet.pdf) (pdf) https://www.sermons4kids.com/pdf_icon_sm.gif  [MP3 Piano Accompaniment](https://www.sermons4kids.com/love_one_another.mp3)- Right click and save to your computer.  This song may be freely downloaded and reproduced for religious or educational use by churches, schools, home schoolers, and other non-profit organizations. |
| **About Carol Williams** |
| Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, and Indiana.  Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School.  She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles tc (the clown). |
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1. **Read these passages to understand more:** Exodus 20:1-27; Deuteronomy 6:5; Deuteronomy 7:8-11; Matthew 22:36-40 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Tappert, T. G. (2000, c1959). *The book of concord : The confessions of the evangelical Lutheran church* (The Large Catechism: II, 1-10). Philadelphia: Fortress Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)