MAUNDY THURSDAY AGAPE MEAL

SAINT JOHN’S CHURCH
LAFAYETTE SQUARE
WASHINGTON, DC

7:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M.
OPENING ACCLAMATION

Priest: Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People: Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

WELCOME TO THE AGAPE MEAL

OPENING PRAYERS FOR THE MEAL

The Presider (The Rev. Robert W. Fisher) will recite the following prayers over the meal:

Over Wine

Priest: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and on this night you have refreshed us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Over Bread

Priest: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and on this night you have given us the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

Over the Other Foods

Priest: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE MEAL BEGINS

You are welcome to eat as the service continues.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 17

Read by Pete Carlson.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.
"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ‘Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Jane Milliken Hague
A RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, "Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done."

People: 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.

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

People: 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.

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

PRAYERS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader and People:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Leader: That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

People: We entreat you, O Lord.

Leader: That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

People: We entreat you, O Lord.

Leader: That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

People: We entreat you, O Lord.

Leader: That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

People: We entreat you, O Lord.

Leader: That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

People: We entreat you, O Lord.
The agapé concludes with Psalm 69:1-23 chanted, while an image of the stripped altar is shared.

Psalm 69:1-23  

1 Save me, O God,  
for the waters have risen up to my neck.  
2 I am sinking in deep mire,  
and there is no firm ground for my feet.  
3 I have come into deep waters,  
and the torrent washes over me.  
4 I have grown weary with my crying;  
my throat is inflamed;  
my eyes have failed from looking for my God.  
5 Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head;  
my lying foes who would destroy me are mighty.  
Must I then give back what I never stole?  
6 O God, you know my foolishness,  
and my faults are not hidden from you.  
7 Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me,  
Lord God of hosts;  
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me,  
O God of Israel.  
8 Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach,  
and shame has covered my face.  
9 I have become a stranger to my own kindred,  
an alien to my mother’s children.  
10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.  
11 I humbled myself with fasting,  
but that was turned to my reproach.  
12 I put on sack-clot edge also,  
and became a byword among them.  
13 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,  
and the drunkards make songs about me.
But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O Lord:

“In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.

Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up; do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.

Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me.

‘Hide not your face from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

Draw near to me and redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.

You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; my adversaries are all in your sight.”

Reproach has broken my heart, and it cannot be healed; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I could find no one.

They gave me gall to eat, and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.