

REFLECTION OF WORDS

Pastor Jenny Lee

HYMN OF PREPARATION *The Old Rugged Cross* UMH 504

BLESSING THE WATER

HANDWASHING

*(Please come to the front one by one, and after washing your hands, go back to your seat, and pray in silence until everybody is finished.)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another*

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

TENEBRAE

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jenny Lee

We leave in silence in the full knowledge of the grief. We know, however, that Jesus' death is not God's final word. From the prophet Hosea came these words,

*"I will deliver this people from the power of the grave;*

*I will redeem them from death.*

*"Where, O death, is your victory?*

*Where, O death, is your sting?" (Hosea 13:14)*

\*POSTLUDE

Sharon Asp

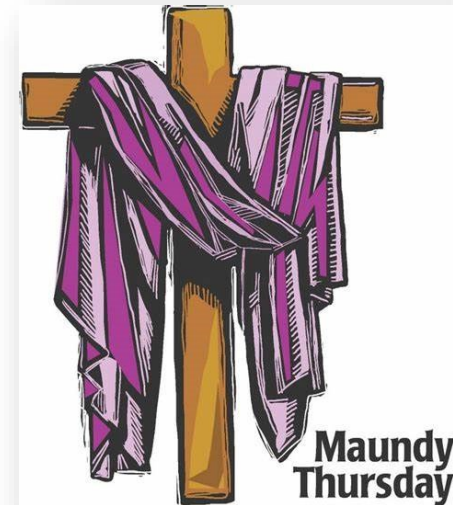
April 6th, 2023



# Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

The 2023 Parish Ministry Theme:  
"Fill My House" (Luke 14:23)

**Maundy Thursday Service**



*7:00 pm at St. Croix Falls United Methodist Church*

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Pastor Jenny Lee:** [jennlee1732@gmail.com](mailto:jennlee1732@gmail.com)

**Youth Director Shayna Schmid:** [snsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:snsnyder@gmail.com)

**Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg:** [centralumc2016@gmail.com](mailto:centralumc2016@gmail.com)

**Parish Office:** 715-463- 2624 **St. Croix Falls Office:** 715-483-9494

[www.upperstcroixparish.org](http://www.upperstcroixparish.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Upper St. Croix Parish  
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls  
April 6th, 2023

“Maundy Thursday Service”

\*Please stand if you are able.

\*PRELUDE

Sharon Asp

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with You!”

*We Celebrate New Life in Christ*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP    Responsive

We have received through Jesus Christ a new covenant.  
With broken bread and a shared cup, we celebrate it.

**This is a night of remembrance and celebration.**

**It is also a time of fear and betrayal.**

At table with Christ, we receive a new commandment.

We are called to love one another as Christ loves us.

**We are disciples of Jesus when we love one another.**

**Through love, we thank God for the gift of Jesus.**

In thanks to God, we become a servant to others.

By Jesus’ example, we become foot-washers.

**We have come to learn from Jesus Christ.**

**We are ready to follow where Christ leads. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN    *Jesus, Keep me Near the Cross*    UMH 301

CONFESSION AND PARDON    Responsive

(The Book of Worship)

My sisters and brothers, Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God’s Spirit.

**Most merciful God, we your church confess that often our spirit has not been that of Christ. Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us, where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips and then betrayed, deserted, or denied**

**him, forgive us, we pray; and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. But Christ suffered and died for us, was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us, and continues to intercede for us. Believe the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen!**

*Proclamation and Respond*

\*THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 13:1-17

13 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The devil had already decided[a] that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4 got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” 7 Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” 8 Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” 9 Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” 10 Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet,[b] but is entirely clean. And you[c] are clean, though not all of you.” 11 For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

12 After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? 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, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers[d] greater than the one who sent them. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

April 6th, 2023  
John 13:1-17

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.  
Upper St. Croix Parish UMC



## **No matter who you are!**

How many of you have ever washed someone else's feet other than your children's? How many of you have had your feet washed by others? How did you feel when someone washed your feet? It may have felt good. I have experienced someone washing my feet and giving me an exfoliating massage when I got a pedicure. It was so good, like receiving good care.

Today's scripture is about how Jesus washed his disciples' feet. One night, it was most likely a Thursday evening, when they were about to eat the Last Supper. Jesus knew it was time for him to leave his disciples. He decided to do something for his disciples, whom he loved. It was to wash their feet. His disciples didn't know what would happen. But they were still excited after they marched into Jerusalem with a huge crowd. They might argue about who would get a higher position when Jesus was king. Jesus knew everything about what would happen. He got up from the table, removed his robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was tied around him. When he came to Simon Peter, Peter was surprised at what Jesus was doing and said, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

The Israelites walked in the desert area without transportation, wearing sandals. When they entered a house, they washed their feet. But, in situations where there was a lack of water, most ordinary people couldn't wash their feet very often. In their culture, washing a guest's feet was showing great hospitality. It was great hospitality, even if they were giving guests water to wash their hands and feet or water to drink. You may remember the scripture about the woman who anointed Jesus with expensive perfume and washed his feet with her tears. At that time, Jesus said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair" (Luke 7:44). Washing someone's feet is the job of a servant. Imagine kneeling before the person, taking their sandals off, and washing the dirt off their feet.

So, Peter was surprised that Jesus would wash his feet. And then, he said, "No, you shall never wash my feet." Jesus said, "you don't understand what I'm doing now, but later you will understand. Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." Then, Peter said, "Then, Lord, not just my feet but wash my hands and my head as well." He didn't understand what Jesus was doing. Jesus told him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." Jesus knew one of his disciples might betray him. Nevertheless, he washed all of his disciples' feet. After he was done, he returned to the table and said, "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." It is an excellent example of Jesus teaching us to serve one another.

A professor of liturgics at my seminary in Korea said, "To worship God is like to wash Jesus' feet," which means to worship God makes us humble before God. However, I may say, "If you

worship God, Jesus is present beside you. And while you worship God with your whole heart, mind and soul, he may wash your feet.” No Matter who you are, No Matter what you did and what you will do. Come all of you to God, and worship him. Jesus washes our feet while we worship him as if he was washing our sins away. Today, we will wash our hands before God. It is a symbol of how Jesus washes our sins away. I hope we can all forgive others who go against us, as Jesus showed and taught us. Serve one another with your hands as Jesus served us with his life. Thanks be to God. Amen!