

We pass on tonight to children and strangers what we have received from you, Lord Jesus:  
Who on this night you left us took bread blessed it, broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying,  
"Do this in remembrance of Me."

And so we remember:

**How You came to us, poor and vulnerable,  
how You taught us by story and example,  
how You fed us on the hillside and seashore.**

As we remember you, pour out Yourself again to us  
and by Your Holy Spirit make us living remembrances  
of your great love and life.

Fill us with a new understanding of love among all your children  
that others may see our witness and draw close to You.

**Merciful Deliverer, Humble Servant, and Love Among Us,  
Holy Trinity, we give you praise and thanks. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RECEIVING OF COMMUNION *(As we wait you are invited to silently consider the gift of eternal life that God the Father has offered to you through Jesus the Son. There is not a formal offering tonight, but if you desire to give a financial gift there will be a basket available as you prepare to be ushered into the overflow to receive communion.)*

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION (in unison)

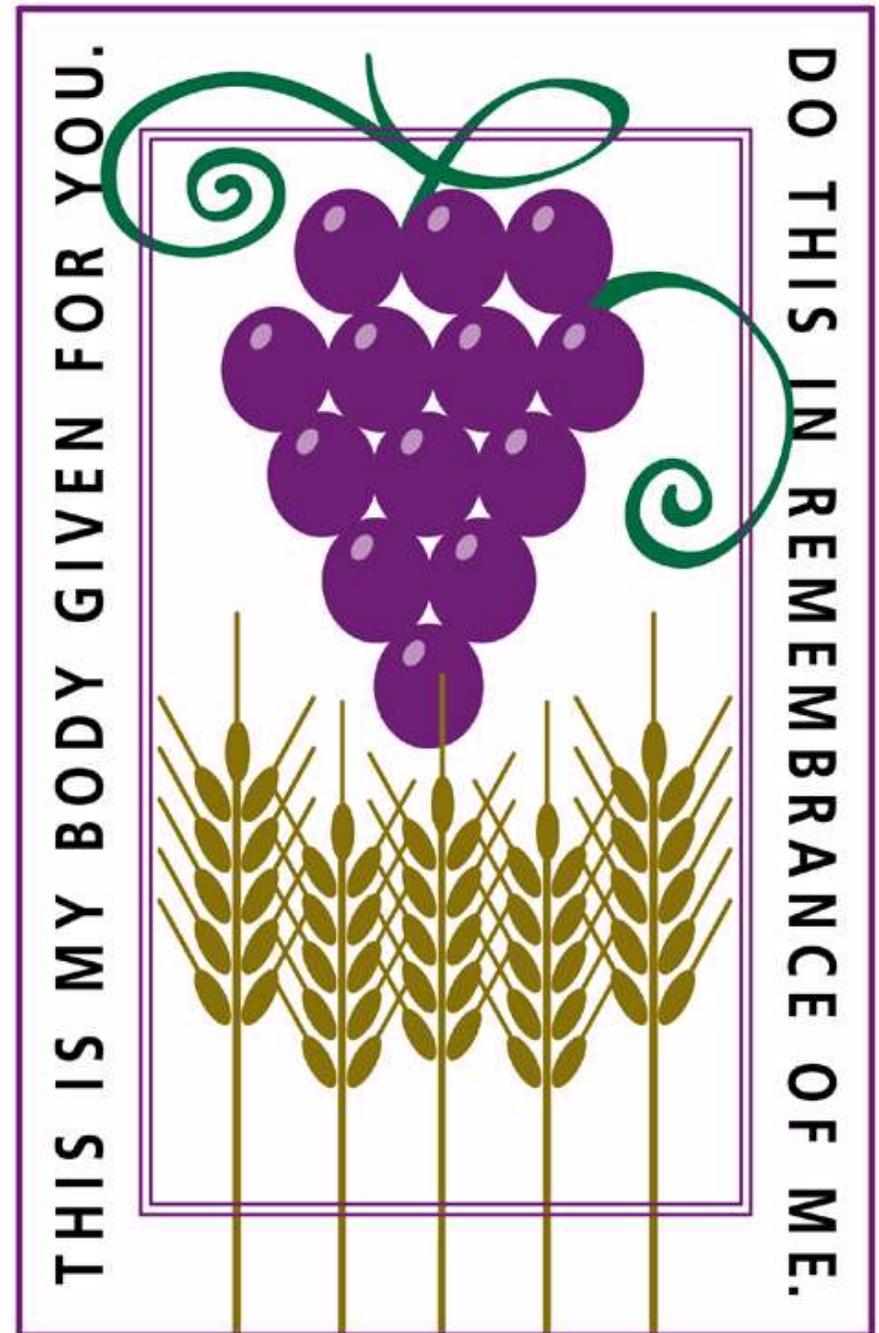
We thank you, holy God, for giving us this meal, shared in the Spirit, which sustains us with the food and drink of your life. Grace our lives that we may at the last come to share in the heavenly banquet of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

❖HYMN "What Wondrous Love Is This" #292

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

"Were You There"

**(During this time, please remain in an attitude of prayer. If you like, you may come and kneel at the chancel rail, or just watch, pray, and be filled with the awe of our Lord, Jesus Christ. When the altar is stripped, and the song ends, you may stay and pray or leave in silence.)**



L U K E 2 2 : 1 9

# First United Methodist Church

"Growing, Loving & Serving in Christ's Name"

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March 29, 2018 ~ 7:00 P.M.

## Holy Thursday

### Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar

PRELUDE "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

❖CALL TO WORSHIP (John 13, 1 Corinthians 11, Exodus 12)

L: A table is set before us. A feast is prepared for us.

**P: A meal of bread and wine, of meat and bitter herbs.**

L: The Lord calls us to this supper of remembrance.

**P: The Lord calls us to serve and to be served.**

L: As we break the bread and share the cup,

**P: our understanding may fail us.**

L: But we will never forget Christ's example.

**P: We will never forget the full extent of his love.**

❖HYMN "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" #301

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Ever-gracious God, we gather in this evening hour as friends gathered with Jesus in an Upper Room long ago. We come bearing the marks and burdens of a bitter and broken world. We come from anonymous places, with dry and thirsty spirits. Remind us, in the breaking of the bread, of our need and of your great sufficiency. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness. Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to you in the covenant of faithfulness and thanksgiving. As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ, our friend and Redeemer. AMEN.

CHOIR ANTHEM "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

GOSPEL LESSON John 13:1-17, 31b-35 page 937

SERIES: "God's Action in Symbols of the Crucifixion"  
from "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado"

SYMBOL 11: **The Cross**

❖HYMN "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" #297

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON (in unison)

Loving Christ, on that night long ago, you knew that your hour had come. You knew full well what lay ahead of you. Your disciples loved you and followed you, but they had also failed you. They would fail you yet again that night, and one would betray you. Yet you washed their feet, as a servant would, even the feet of your betrayer. We have also loved you and followed you. We have also failed you, and we cannot comprehend the love that you show us, the love that is our example, the love that tells us to do as you have done for us. May we be like you, Master, servants of all. May all see how we long to be your faithful disciples. May all see how we love each other, just as you have loved us. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

*(Silent Prayer/Confession)*

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:

L: In the Name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

**P: In the Name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

On this night, we gather as the Hebrew people gathered

in exile to share the Lamb and celebrate

your passing over them in mercy.

On this night, we gather amazed and humbled to have the dust of our souls washed by the servant Messiah.

We pause in our hurried lives to ask:

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul,  
that caused the Christ to lay aside His life  
for my soul?**