

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Good Friday Service 6:30pm

Easter Morning Service 9:30am

Easter Breakfast 8:30am

Easter Egg Hunt 10:50am

All Services are In-Person and Livestreamed at rfcov.org

Adam J Christian

Lead Pastor

Brian Majerus

**Pastor of Christian Formation
& Family Ministries**

Emily Myers

Director of Worship Ministry

Neil Vance

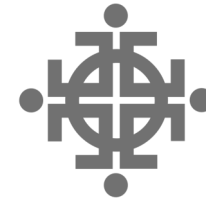
Director of Youth & Children's Ministry

Andrew Ertsgaard

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MAUNDY THURSDAY



MARCH 28, 2024

**FIRST COVENANT CHURCH
RIVER FALLS, WI
WWW.RFCOV.ORG**

Order of Service

Call to Worship

Welcome from Pastor Adam

Prayer of Invocation

Song - *Holy Forever*

Scripture Reading - Mark 14:1-26

After two days it was the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a treacherous way to arrest and kill Him. “Not during the festival,” they said, “or there may be rioting among the people.” While He was in Bethany at the house of Simon who had a serious skin disease, as He was reclining at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of pure and expensive fragrant oil of nard. She broke the jar and poured it on His head. But some were expressing indignation to one another: “Why has this fragrant oil been wasted? For this oil might have been sold for more than 300 denarii and given to the poor.” And they began to scold her.

Then Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a noble thing for Me. You always have the poor with you, and you can do what is good for them whenever you want, but you do not always have Me. She has done what she could; she has anointed My body in advance for burial. I assure you: Wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told in memory of her.”

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to hand Him over to them. And when they heard this, they were glad and promised to give him silver. So he started looking for a good opportunity to betray Him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrifice the Passover lamb, His disciples asked Him, “Where do You want us to go and prepare the Passover so You may eat it?”

So He sent two of His disciples and told them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him. Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is the guest room for Me to eat the Passover with My disciples?”’ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make the prepara-

Unleavened Bread - The Last Supper took place in the context of the Jewish Passover celebration (Mk 14) in which unleavened bread was used (Ex. 12:18). We continue this practice to remind ourselves that Jesus’ atoning sacrifice occurred within the context of the Passover and exodus stories (1Cor 5:7; 1Pt. 1:19).

White Cloth over the Bread - The cloth which covers the bread and is then removed represents the grave clothes which Jesus laid aside when God raised him from the dead (Jn. 20:3-7).

Distributing the Elements - In addition to it being more sanitary for only one person to touch the bread for distribution, it is also theologically significant. The communion elements are handed out to the communicants because it reminds us that we cannot achieve salvation on our own. New life in Christ is a gift freely given by God (Rm. 5:15-18 & 6:23). We are always the passive recipients of God’s grace, never the active agents (Eph. 2:8-9). Therefore in communion we do not approach the table casually or with a sense of entitlement, but rather we approach in a posture of reverence and humility (1Cor. 11:27-31).

The Name “Maundy Thursday” - The word “maundy” derives from the Latin words “mandatum novum” (new commandment) which refers to John 13:34 and the new commandment Jesus gives at the Last Supper when he tells his disciples to “love one another even as I have loved you.”

*“A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another even as
I have loved you.”*

- Jesus (John 13:34)

This traditional service is filled with symbolism, understanding the meaning behind things can help you more fully enter into the worship experience.

Purple - The color of royalty and of penitence. Using purple reminds us that Jesus is the true king who established his rule and kingship by way of the cross (1Tim. 6:13-15; Rev. 9:13&16). It also invites us to repent of the ways we have rebelled against Jesus.

Candles - In the scriptures the presence of God is frequently depicted by the presence of fire (Gen 15:17; Ex. 3:2-3 & 13:21; Is. 66:15; Acts 2:3). The burning candles remind us that God is really present in our midst when we gather in the name of Jesus to worship him.

The White Robe - Called an alb, the pastor's robe is a baptismal robe which symbolizes the reality that all who have been baptized into Jesus have been washed clean in the blood of the Lamb and are now pure and holy (1Jn. 1:7; Acts 22:16; 1Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 5:25-27). The black clothes under the robe represent sin and death which are covered over when a believer becomes clothed in Christ (Gal. 3:27; Rm. 6:3).

The Stole - The cloth around the pastor's neck has two meanings. It represents the cloth Jesus used to wash the disciples' feet (Jn. 13:1-17) and thus is meant to remind us to follow Jesus' example and command by humbly serving one another. The stole also represents a yoke (Mtt. 11:29). As a yoke it reminds us both of the fetters with which Jesus was bound during his trial and execution, and it reminds us that we are bound to Christ as his servants (Rm. 1:1; 1Cor 7:22). The stole reminds the pastor and the congregation that the pastor is a servant of Jesus and that it is actually Jesus himself who oversees the Church (Eph. 1:22).

Water Mixed with Wine - This practice dates back to at least AD 250 and testifies to the dual nature of Jesus. The water is Christ's humanity, the wine his divinity, and the mingling of the two represents his incarnation. It also recalls the blood and water which flowed from Christ's side (John 19:34).

tions for us there.” So the disciples went out, entered the city, and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover. When evening came, He arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “I assure you: One of you will betray Me—one who is eating with Me!”

They began to be distressed and to say to Him one by one, “Surely not I?”

He said to them, “It is one of the Twelve—the one who is dipping bread with Me in the bowl. For the Son of Man will go just as it is written about Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” As they were eating, He took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is My body.”

Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He gave it to them, and so they all drank from it. He said to them, “This is My blood that establishes the covenant; it is shed for many. I assure you: I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it in a new way in the kingdom of God.” After singing psalms, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Message - Pastor Adam Christian

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Clear your way in us that we might see our sin and our need for confession and repentance.

Lord have mercy

Lord, we give you our resentment and our grudges.

Lord have mercy

We know that our spirit has not been that of Christ.

Lord have mercy

We have sown seeds of hate, bitterness, and resentment.

Lord have mercy

We have been disobedient and ungrateful.

Lord have mercy

We have listened to the powers of darkness.

Lord have mercy

We have missed or neglected opportunities to share your love.

Lord have mercy

*For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, the suffering and humble servant,
forgive us, we pray, and renew us in his power.*

Song - *Beautiful Scandalous Night*

Words of Assurance

Celebration of Holy Communion

Prayer of Humble Access

Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilot, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Words of Institution

1Corinthians 11:23-26

Prayer of Consecration

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

1Corinthians 10:16-17

John 1:29

Sharing the Bread and Cup

All who confess Jesus as Savior and Lord are invited to come forward and receive the sacrament.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Song - *Jesus Messiah*

Benediction

Following the Service prayer is available at the front of the sanctuary for any and all who wish to receive it.