

## MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

On behalf of First Presbyterian Church of Magnolia, I want to welcome you to this Good Friday Tenebrae Service. It is our prayer that this service will provide you with a fresh hearing of the Gospel and that you will find new energy and commitment for your own walk with Jesus Christ.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us begin this evening's service with a responsive reading from the 22nd Psalm:  
You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;

**For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;**

He did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

**From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.**

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

**All who sleep in the earth shall bow down; and I shall live for him.**

Posterity will serve him; and future generations will be told about the Lord,

**We will proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

Let us worship God beginning with prayer...

### **INVOCATION**

Let us pray... On this day, O Lord, you call us to remember an upper-room gathering that began a new observance. Take us back to that room that we may be reminded of the new commandment you gave us-- to love one another as you have always loved us. Sometimes this is easy--when we are with people we like. But we need your help when the loving is hard-- when people are unkind, when they don't understand, when we just don't like them. Teach us to love as you love now-- Loving everyone. Loving always. Amen.

**\*HYMN**

“An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare”

*The Hymnal #94*

### **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

We are instructed to examine ourselves before receiving the gift of his body and blood. In penitence and faith, confident of the grace promised by him who gave his life for us, let us confess our sins before God and one another as we pray together the prayer of confession printed in our bulletins. Let us pray...

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Risen Lord, you have called us to remember that we are here to take a seat at your table of grace. We know that we dare not come with dirty hands and sin-stained hearts. Only your forgiveness can make us clean. We confess we have pushed you out to the fringes of our lives and occupied ourselves with self-serving trivialities. Help us order our days and our deeds according to your will. Grant us pardon, remind us that we are here to remember and celebrate your feast of love with the saints of every time and place. Amen.

### **THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ! And Christ was born for us, died for us, and was raised in power for us. Even now he intercedes for us. ...Friends, believe the good news....

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

**\*HYMN**

“Come, Share the Lord”

*Sing the Faith #2269*

### **EPISTLE READING**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for\* you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, say-

ing, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## **MEDITATION**

"In Remembrance"

It was February 1941, Auschwitz, Poland. Maximilian Kolbe had been a Franciscan priest interred in the infamous death camp for hiding Jews in his church until he could smuggle them out of Poland and out of the threat of Nazism.

After months of smoke rising from the ovens, starvation, disease, and the loss of hope, desperate prisoners attempted a daring escape. One escaped, but none of the others survived. To discourage future escape attempts, the Commandant chose to ruthlessly enforce the camp rule that for every escape, ten prisoners would be randomly selected and herded into a cell to die of starvation and exposure as a lesson against future escape attempts.

Names were called. Among them was the name of a Polish Jew named as Frandishek Gasov-nachek. He cried and pleaded for mercy, "Wait, I have a wife and children! Who will care for them?"

It was then that the old priest, Father Kolbe stepped forward and said, "I will take his place."

The SS death squad didn't really care who died as long as there were ten of them, so Max Kolbe, took the place of the young Jewish father, Frandishek Gashovnachek, and was marched into the cell with nine others. He lived in agony for 7 months more. Why did he do it? Why did he give his life for a Jew? He was innocent.

Because he remembered. He remembered what many of us so frequently forget.... that having received the gift of life, freedom from sin, and hope where before there had been none.... having received the grace of God, he owed a debt of love that he could never fully repay. Having been loved by Jesus, he was to love others just as completely, just as passionately.

Did Frandishek Gasovnachek remember?.... Not that it was a condition of the grace he had received from Max Kolbe, any more than it had been a condition that Jesus had placed on the gift of his grace to Max Kolbe. Did he remember?

Yes he did. This story was chronicled on an NBC news special several years ago. Gasovnachek was 82 years old by this time, He shared his story while tears streamed down his cheeks. A mobile camera followed him around his little white house to a marble monument carefully tended with flowers. The inscription read:

IN MEMORY OF MAXIMILIAN KOLBE -- HE DIED IN MY PLACE.

Every day Gasovnachek lived since that memorable day in February of 1941, he lived with the knowledge that, "I live because someone died for me." Every year on August 14 he travels to Auschwitz in memory of Kolbe.

Every time we gather at this table, we remember... The table itself commands us, "Do this in remembrance of me." And so, all over the world, from the North and from the South, from the East and the West, we come, we gather, and we remember....

JESUS-- HE DIED IN MY PLACE.

## **THE PASTORAL PRAYER**

Almighty God, and most merciful Father, who has given us a new commandment that we should love one another, give us also grace that we may fulfill it. Make us gentle, courteous, and forbearing. Direct our lives so that we may look each to the good of the other in word and deed. Enable each of us today to say something, or do something that will make a difference to the discouraged, to the inexperienced, to the despairing. Let no selfish concern with my own affairs shut me off from anyone else I encounter. Hallow all our friendships by the blessing of your Spirit, for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us.

Pour out your Holy Spirit Father upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ. Grant that they may bring to our remembrance the height, and depth, and breadth of your love for each of us. Remind us all once more and for all time, the good news of your forgiveness and the permanence of your commitment to each of us. All this we pray in the blessed name of

our Lord Jesus, who taught us to pray saying...

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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; & forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; & lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, & the power, & the glory, forever. Amen.

### **HYMN OF PREPARATION**

“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”

*The Hymnal #505*

### **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

#### **The Invitation**

We do not presume to come to this table trusting in our own righteousness. For this is the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we are not even worthy to gather up the crumbs from under His table. But His nature is always to have mercy. He gave his life to atone our sins. And he has removed the wall that has separated us from the Father and from one another. As there is one loaf, so we who are many are one body, united by his love. All who have need of his grace are invited to come and eat of the bread of life and drink from the cup of salvation.

#### **The Words of Institution**

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord took bread, and after he had give thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: “Take, eat. This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In like fashion after they had eaten, he took the cup. After he had given thanks he gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, drink ye all of it.”

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes again in final victory.

#### **The Distribution of the Elements**

*We will be receiving communion by the method of intinction with a common cup. When the invitation to come forward is given, please come forward, receive a piece of bread & dip it into the cup before eating. You may then return to your seat by the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward, or if it would be difficult for you, please remain where you are & the elements will be brought to you.*

#### **The Prayer After Receiving**

As we leave this place, Lord, we pray that the remembrance of your gift will go with us always. May your love and forgiveness remain with us in the same way that the scent of a violet lingers on the heel of one who has crushed it. And remembering, may we serve you and others instead of just asking favors for ourselves. Teach us to see your face, Jesus, when we look into the faces of others, so that we may never forget your countenance witnessing to all our works or your guiding and empowering presence equipping us to do them. Amen.

### **THE CLOSING HYMN**

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

*The Hymnal #509*

### **BENEDICTION & SHARING THE PEACE**