

Psalm 51:1-9 (ESV)

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. ⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

John 13:1-17 (ESV)

¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not 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, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Service for the First Week in Lent

The Washing of Hands

Invocation

Shema Yisrael! Adonai Elohenu, Adonai echad! "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!" The LORD our God is one God in three person, blessed Trinity! In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Blessing of the Candles

In the Hebrew tradition, before the Passover ceremony, the children light the candles and pray. This gesture symbolizes the coming of the Messiah as the light of the world. We welcome Messiah's presence among us as the candles are lit.

Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the universe. You sanctify us by Your Word and allow us to kindle these lights. Bless our homes and our dear ones with the warmth and peace of Your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles and Opening Hymn

Opening Hymn *Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain LSB 435*

A Passover Approach

Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we eat sitting, but on this night why do we recline?

In antiquity slaves ate hurriedly, standing or sitting on the ground, while royalty, nobility, and the wealthy dined reclining on couches. To indicate that they were now free the Israelites also reclined while eating.

(We) are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that (we) may declare the praises of Him who called (us) out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once (we) were not a people, but now (we) are the people of God. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Once we were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD our God delivered us “with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.” (Deuteronomy 5:15)

Once we were slaves of satan and sin, but the LORD our God delivered us with His arms outstretched on the cross.

Had not the Holy One, praised be He, brought our fathers out of Egypt, then we and our children and our children’s children would still be enslaved.

Had not the Holy One, praised be He, brought us out of sin, then we and our children and our children’s children would still be enslaved by the devil and destined for damnation.

Prayer of Kiddush (“Sanctification”)

Our God and God of our ancestors, we thank You for gathering us to celebrate Passover. We praise You for delivering us from the slavery of sin and bringing us into the liberation of the Gospel, all through the sacrifice of Messiah.

Praised are You, O LORD our God, King of the universe. You have given us life and sustained us and brought us to this season. Amen.

First Lesson

Psalm 51:1-9

The Passion History

John 13:1-17

Sermon Hymn *LORD Jesus, Think on Me* **LSB 610**

Sermon *“Cleansed by a Servant”* **John 13:4-5, 12-17**

Hymn Response *O Christ, Thou Lamb of God* **Page 198**

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Our LORD’s Prayer

The High Priestly Benediction **Numbers 6:24-26**

Yebarekka Adonai, weyishmereka; ya’er Adonai panayw ‘eleyka, wichunnekkka; yissa’ Adonai panayw ‘eleyka, weyasem leka shalom.

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn *Christ, the Life of All the Living* **LSB 420**

(vs. 1-3)