

Good Enough:

Embracing the Imperfections
of Life and Faith

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

"You are blessed. Regardless."

Prelude: "What Wondrous Love Is This/O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" Hassler/Berry

Welcome/Introduction

***Theme Song:** "Good Enough"

What in our lives do we dream a-bout for to - mor-row, void of sor-row?

5
Time spent re - gret-ting de - ci - sions of our yes-ter-days, mi - stakes we made?

9
Some-times we get what we get, life dis - ap-oints us and yet,

13
God is still here and some - how, this faith is good e - nough.

***Prayer of the Day:** Based on Psalm 116

P: Let us pray together:

Holy One, You who lay a table of blessing before us, you have heard us and have come to us. We lift up the cup of salvation in praise, we break open and share our love. Open us this night to your presence in our gardens of delight and sorrow—in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

****Honest Questions, Compassionate Response***

P: The mid-20th century brought a particular shift as televangelists began to speak of blessing as a “pact” with God in which our good works (mostly our good wallets) would multiply the prosperity in our lives. But for Jesus, this moment in the Upper Room was full of trouble, danger, deception, and uncertainty. Surely Jesus, Son of God, had enough blessing capital to out-manuever this set of circumstances! In the midst of the pain of his moment, Jesus defines the real blessing pact—washing feet, breaking the bread, lifting the cup, sharing even with those who are about to betray him. In this moment of silence, take in this graceful invitation of Jesus to the table, no matter what.

Silent Reflection

Hear this compassionate word: **Love that cannot be quantified reminds us that each and every person is blessed, always, regardless of who we are, how we’ve failed, or what we’ve accomplished.**

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from never feeling good enough for all the blessings of life and faith, inviting us to love and to bless in the same way—indiscriminately, extravagantly. And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Amen.

****Gospel Reading: Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5:1-12***

P: When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness ’sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Message: *Thoughts about an imperfect life and faith:*

“We are blessed, regardless.” Rev. Becky Sells

“A Blessing for When You Don’t Feel #Blessed”

P: Blessed am I when I lose sleep over what troubles me. When my worries keep me watching the clock tick by. When I have no energy to do anything but fret.

The kingdom of God is here and now.

L: Blessed am I when I am drowning in grief. When wave after wave after wave crashes over me. When I start to feel okay, then something reminds me of what I’ve lost, and I’m pulled under once again.

God promises to comfort me.

P: Blessed am I when I feel silenced and afraid to speak up. When I am forgotten and left out. When I feel small and feel as though my work, my presence, my life doesn’t matter.

The whole world is mine.

L: Blessed am I when I am starving for justice. When the world around me feels so unfair that I could scream, but no one seems to be listening. No one seems to care.

May justice flow like a river.

P: Blessed am I when someone hurts me, when I feel offended, and I don’t return insult with insult.

Instead, I forgive, recognizing the number of times I’ve needed to be forgiven.

L: Blessed am I when I strip away all the extra. When I see the world as it really is—broken, tender, fragile, beautiful.

These are the same eyes that see God in everything too.

P: Blessed am I when I take the hard road. The winding one that doesn’t opt for the shortcut of rage or resentment or unkind words. That doesn’t pave over with trite niceties, but walks toward peacemaking.

For I am God’s kid.

L: Blessed am I when I face hardships of all sorts. Insults, hurt feelings, lies, and vindictive neighbors (why is loving your *actual* neighbor so hard, God?).

Blessed am I when I work to usher in God’s kingdom of love and compassion and justice and forgiveness and peace, even when it’s hard.

Blessed are we. The imperfect and don’t-have-it-all- together. God’s beloved.

Gospel Reading: Invitation to the Upper Room from John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

L: 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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to 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." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Choir: *“What Wondrous Love Is This”*Lloyd Larson

A Good Enough Step

P: We love blessing people we find easy to love, but Jesus knew that night there were people who would betray him, and he washed their feet anyway.

In her work, *“A Stone for a Pillow,”* Madeleine L’Engle wrote

We must bless without wanting to manipulate. Without insisting that everything be straightened out right now. Without insisting that our truth be known. This means simply turning whoever it is we need to bless over to God, knowing that God’s powerful love will do what our own feeble love or lack of it won’t.

I have suggested that it is a good practice to believe in six impossible things every morning before breakfast, like the White Queen in *Through the Looking Glass*. It is also salutary to bless six people I don’t much like every morning before breakfast.

Visualization Exercise

Blessing: *from Numbers 6: 24-26*

P: Let’s say one of the oldest blessings “in the Book” together, keeping in mind those we love and those we struggle to love:

**“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”**

Sharing of the Peace

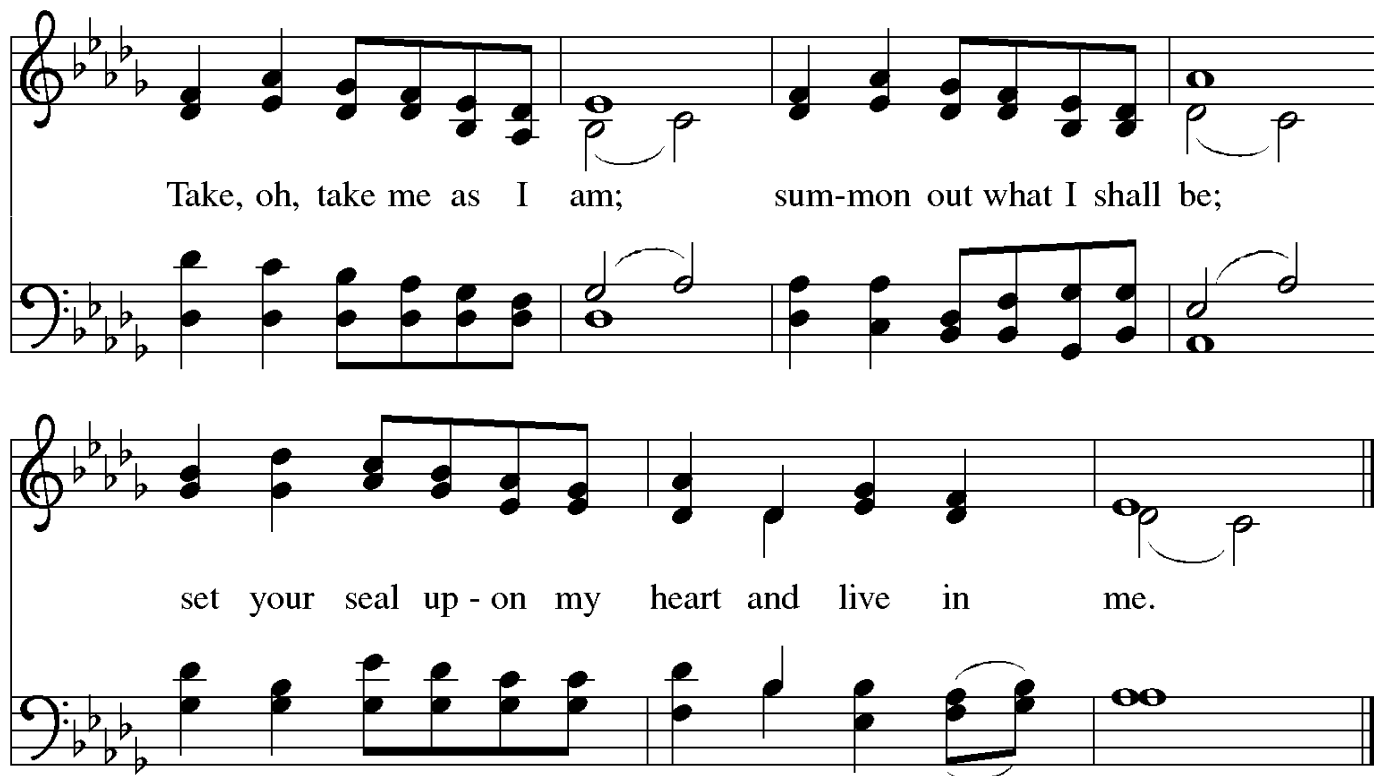
P: Dear Beloveds, the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share signs of peace with one another.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: During our communion liturgy tonight, we will be interspersing words put to the hymn: “*Take, Oh Take Me as I Am,*” which I invite us to sing together now:



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system of music covers the first two lines of lyrics. The second system of music covers the third line of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

The Holy Living God 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...

...And so, together we proclaim the praise-filled truth of your glory along with all the saints:

[Sung to the tune of “Take, Oh Take Me as I Am”]

Holy, holy, God of Hosts!

Heav’n and earth sing out your name!

Blest are they who come today;

and take their place.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ....

...and those who struggle to love are invited into greater compassion.

***Words of Institution**

P: On the night in which he gave himself up for us...

...And so, we remember. We offer ourselves. We proclaim God's time.

[Sung to the tune of "Take, Oh Take Me as I Am"]

Christ has died, yet Christ is ris'n;

Christ will come once again!

We remember and proclaim

redeeming love.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...

...Open us to the world, making us one in you, through Christ, in the power of your amazing grace!

[Sung to the tune of "Take, Oh Take Me as I Am"]

Take, oh take me as I am;

summon out what I shall be;

set your seal upon my heart

and live in me.

***The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

***Invitation to Communion**

P: Come. Partake in the Lord's banquet of love given and poured out for you.

Please be seated.

Communion Hymn: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love"..... ELW 708

Distribution Music: "By the Babylonian Rivers".....arr. David

After Communion, the altar will be stripped.

The Pastor will move to the garden scene for the final scripture reading.

Gospel Reading: The Garden Vigil from Luke 22: 39-53

P: He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” [Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.] When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?” When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?” Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!”

This concludes our service.

When ready, you may leave in silence or stay and pray if you’d like.

You are invited to take a special time to pray over the next 36 hours.

If you’d like to sign up for a specific time, you can do so on the website at:
lord-of-love.org/worship/easter-prayer-vigil



Take, O Take Me as I Am

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: Take Me As I Am, John L. Bell

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