



A Love Supreme:  
the Passion According to John Coltrane and St. John  
Midday Good Friday  
March 29, 2024  
St. Thomas Lutheran Church  
Bloomington, Indiana

*All gather in silence.*

Prayer of the Day

A Reading from James Baldwin on Poetry and Protest

A Reading from *Paradise* by Toni Morrison

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, translated by Eugene Peterson

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

*A Love Supreme*, Part 1: Acknowledgement

*Throughout John's gospel is the central theme of God's love for the whole world. In this part, Coltrane introduces the theme, "a love supreme," carrying in the bass for most of the song, modulating it through 12 keys, and moving it from saxophone to his voice.*

*A Love Supreme*, Part 2: Resolution

*On the night of his betrayal, Jesus speaks to his disciples at length, reassuring them of his love. Having pledged to live according to a love supreme, Coltrane notes in the liner periods of dissonance and irresolution that were resolved by the mercy of God.*

*A Love Supreme*, Part 3: Pursuance

*Jesus is betrayed, arrested, "tried," and sentenced, ever resolute despite the chaos around him. As the group slides into the blues pocket, the music gains complexity, building tension toward the final part of the album.*

*A Love Supreme*, Part 4: Psalm

*Jesus's death is the ultimate completion of his purpose. The final movement is the musical representation of a poem written by Coltrane, each note a syllable, a full expression of Coltrane's faith that a love supreme is all and everything.*

*Silence is kept.*

The Bidding Prayer

*Each bid is followed by a period of silent prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Benediction

*All depart in silence.*

## A Love Supreme

I will do all I can to be worthy of Thee O Lord.  
It all has to do with it.  
Thank you God.  
Peace.  
There is none other.  
God is. It is so beautiful.  
Thank you God. God is all.  
Help us to resolve our fears and weaknesses.  
Thank you God.  
In You all things are possible.  
We know. God made us so.  
Keep your eye on God.  
God is. He always was. He always will be.  
No matter what...it is God.  
He is gracious and merciful.  
It is most important that I know Thee.  
Words, sounds, speech, men, memory, thoughts,  
fears and emotions – time – all related ...  
all made from one ... all made in one.  
Blessed be His name.  
Thought waves–heat waves–all vibrations–  
all paths lead to God. Thank you God.

His way ... it is so lovely ... it is gracious.  
It is merciful–thank you God.  
One thought can produce millions of vibrations  
and they all go back to God ... everything does.  
Thank you God.  
Have no fear ... believe ... thank you God.  
The universe has many wonders. God is all.  
His way ... it is so wonderful.  
Thoughts –deeds–vibrations, etc.  
They all go back to God and He cleanses all.  
He is gracious and merciful...thank you God.  
Glory to God ... God is so alive.  
God is.  
God loves.  
May I be acceptable in Thy sight.  
We are all one in His grace.  
The fact that we do exist is acknowledgement of Thee O Lord.  
Thank you God.  
God will wash away all our tears ...

He always has ...  
He always will.  
Seek Him everyday. In all ways seek God everyday.  
Let us sing all songs to God  
To whom all praise is due ... praise God.  
No road is an easy one, but they all go back to God.  
With all we share God.  
It is all with God.  
It is all with Thee.  
Obey the Lord.  
Blessed is He.  
We are from one thing ... the will of God ... thank you God.  
I have seen God – I have seen ungodly – none can be greater – none can compare to God.  
Thank you God.  
He will remake us ... He always has and He always will.  
It is true–blessed be His name–thank you God.  
God breathes through us so completely ... so gently we hardly feel it ... yet, it is our everything.  
Thank you God.  
ELATION-ELEGANCE-EXALTATION  
All from God.  
Thank you God. Amen.

JOHN COLTRANE - December, 1964