

A Celebration of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday

This is the day that Christ the Lamb of God
gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.
This is the day that Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper
room.

This is the day that Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet,
giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us.
This is the day that Christ our God gave us this holy feast, that we
who eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim his Holy
Sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection, and at the last day may
reign with him in heaven.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hymn: 231 - My song is love unknown

1. My song is love unknown, My Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

2. He came from His blessed throne salvation to bestow;
But we made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know:
But O, my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need his life did spend.

3. Sometimes they strew His way, and His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day, Hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
And for His death they thirst and cry.

4. Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! yet they at these
Themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

5. They rise, and needs will have, my dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,
That He His foes from thence might free.

6. In life, no house, no home my Lord on earth might have;
In death, no friendly tomb, but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His home;
But mine the tomb wherein He lay.

7. Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22: 37-39

**Lord, have mercy on us,
and write these your laws in our hearts.**

Confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace:

Silence

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

The presiding minister pronounces the Absolution:

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day, Maundy Thursday

God our Father,
you have invited us to share in the supper
which your Son gave to his Church
to proclaim his death until he comes:
May he nourish us by his presence,
and unite us in his love;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Daily Lenten Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Reading from the Book Exodus

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

(Exodus 12: 1-4, 5-10, 11-14)

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn: 268 - Hail, thou once-despised Jesus!

1 Hail, thou once despised Jesus!

Hail, thou Galilean King!

Thou didst suffer to release us,
thou didst free salvation bring.

Hail, thou universal Saviour,
bearer of our sin and shame!

By thy merits we find favour,
life is given through thy name.

2 Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
all our sins on thee werelaid;
by almighty love anointed,
thou hast full atonement made.

All thy people are forgiven,
through the virtue of thy blood;
opened is the gate of heaven,
we are reconciled with God.

3 Jesus, hail, enthroned in glory,
there for ever to abide;
all the heavenly hosts adore thee,
seated at thy Father's side.
There for sinners thou art pleading,
there thou dost our place prepare;
ever for us interceding,
till in glory we appear.

4 Worship, honor, power, and blessing,
thou art worthy to receive;
loudest praises, without ceasing,
meet it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
bring your sweetest, noblest lays;
help to sing our Saviour's merits,
help us chant Emmanuel's praise.

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to John:

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.'

(John 13: 1-17, 31b-35)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Thought for the Day

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures, he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People- Intercessions for Maundy Thursday

At the Passover Feast Jesus was acutely aware that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father.

We pray for all who are approaching death and ask you to welcome them into paradise reunited with all who have left this world before them.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer

Judas Iscariot, taken over by the devil, took the opportunity to betray Jesus for money. We pray for all who turn to crime and violence rather than taking up honest and worthwhile work and we remember before God those who have been imprisoned for their crime praying that they will turn away from a sinful life upon release.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

During supper Jesus took water and a towel and acting as a servant washed his disciple's feet. We pray for all who serve, especially those who have to do menial and unsavoury tasks. We continue to pray for our healthcare workers and all whose work is essential at this time. Help us never to take those who serve us in the world for granted.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

During the meal Jesus inaugurated the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We pray that every time we celebrate the Eucharist we remember his passion and the sacred mysteries of his body and blood, even at this time when many cannot receive the physical elements. Help us never to allow the familiarity of the words and actions of our Communion make us apathetic to the true cost of his love, but always surprise us afresh each time we meet him at the Holy Table.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

At the end of the meal Jesus gave to us the new commandment to love one another as he loved us. We give thanks for the love that we share with our families and friends and pray a blessing on them, particularly if we are apart from them at this time.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer

After the supper was ended Jesus sang hymns and prayed with his disciples. We pray for your Church around the world, especially those who cannot gather together to worship in this most Holy Week, because of the pandemic or persecution.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

And as Jesus suffered for our sakes, we pray for all those for whom suffering is a very present reality at this time, especially those known to us and those for whom we have been asked to pray.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our Prayer.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Peace

The presiding minister says

Now in union with Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood; for he is our peace. *Ephesians 2: 17*

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Celebrating at the Lord's Table

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ our risen high priest; make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

The Taking of the Bread and Wine

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us
therefore let us celebrate the feast.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 3

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father, Lord of all creation,

We praise you for your goodness and your love.

When we turned away you did not reject us.

You came to meet us in your Son,

welcomed us as your children

and prepared a table where we might feast with you.

In Christ you shared our life

that we might live in him and he in us.

He opened wide his arms upon the cross

and, with love stronger than death,

he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer,

on this very night

you came to table with your friends.

Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it

and gave it to them saying,

Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

Lord Jesus, we bless you:

you are the bread of life.

At the end of supper

you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said,

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins;

do this in remembrance of me.

Lord Jesus, we bless you:

you are the true vine.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:
**dying, you destroyed our death,
rising, you restored our life;
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life,
come upon us now;
may this bread and wine be to us
the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us, who know our need of grace,
one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity:
with your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise
and lift our voice to join the song of heaven,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray
**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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the
power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

The celebrant receives Holy Communion with the words

The Body of Christ broken for you and me

and

The Blood of Christ shed for you and me

Prayer after Communion

Holy God,

source of all love,

on the night of his betrayal

Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment,

to love one another as he loved them.

Write this commandment in our hearts;

give us the will to serve others

as he was the servant of all,

who gave his life and died for us,

yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

The altar is stripped bare while the following is read:

Matthew 26.30–46

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them, ‘You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, “I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.” But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.’ Peter said to him, ‘Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.’

Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' Peter said to him, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.' Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
'Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!'
Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.
Many bulls encircle me,
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.
I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.
For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me.
My hands and feet have shrivelled;
I can count all my bones.
They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
But you, O LORD, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!
Deliver my soul from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog!
Save me from the mouth of the lion!
From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
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 for ever!
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.
To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.
Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.