

The Parish of St Matthew with St Paul Winchester



The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

Welcome to this online Eucharist for Maundy Thursday

Jesus and his disciples were in the Upper Room and it was evening. I hope your imagination enables you envisage this.

The liturgy has three parts. First, it is a *festal Eucharist*, a celebration of the institution of Holy Communion at the Last Supper. Jesus was gathered with his disciples: they shared a meal, as was the custom, and then Jesus took bread and wine and blessed them. He said the words, 'This is my body, this is my blood', and they shared the blessed bread and wine. And so began the 'drama' that is known by Christians under various names: the Last Supper, Holy Communion, the Eucharist, Mass.

Secondly, within this festal meal the themes of love and service are stressed, as the gospel suggests, demonstrated in the *washing of feet*. The word 'Maundy' is derived from the Latin *mandatum novum*, 'a new commandment'. In these days of Covid-19 we are frustrated that we cannot physically be with people in their need; we're challenged to find new ways of caring. Yet some remarkably good things have been happening, both through community action and use of the phone and internet.

And thirdly, at the conclusion of our worship the mood changes as we move *from Upper Room to Gethsemane* – from light to darkness, from celebration to the agony of prayer, betrayal, arrest and trial. Today we seek to encapsulate the usual drama of stripping the altar and dimming the lights. In these Covid-19 days we are living with the uncomfortable challenge of having to be patient and stay with the ongoing isolation needed to protect and save not only our own lives, but those of others.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Preparation

A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another, as I have loved you.

John 13: 34

The greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you.

And also with you.

Prayers of penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ says,

‘If you love me, keep my commandments’.

John 14: 15

‘Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.’

John 13: 8

Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love,
and ask him to cleanse us.

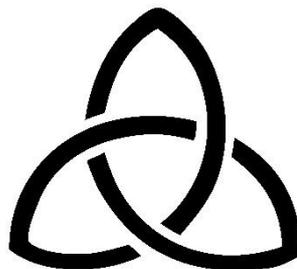
**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.**

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

Trisagion

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**



**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**



O God,
in the fullness of time you revealed your love
in Jesus the Lord.
On the eve of his death,
as a sign of your covenant,
he washed the feet of his disciples
and gave himself as food and drink.
Give us life at this sacred banquet
and joy in humble service,
that, bound to Christ in all things,
we may pass over from this world to your kingdom.
Amen.

Liturgy of the word

First reading Exodus 12: 1–14

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.

For God's holy word
thanks be to God.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 11: 23–26

Beloved:

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, saying, '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.

For God's holy word
thanks be to God.

The Gospel John 13: 1–17, 31b–35

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
Love one another as I have loved you.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon, Canon Peter Seal

The washing of feet

Let us in our imagination picture Jesus washing our feet, and then hold before God those we are called to care for.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

Intercessions

Father God,
on this, the night Jesus was betrayed,
your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.
We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.

Lord, hear us
and humble us.

Father God,
on this night, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one.
We pray for the unity of your Church,
and especially for all our sister and brother Christians,
wherever they may be.

Lord, hear us
and unite us.

Father God,
on this night, Jesus prayed for those who were to believe his
message. We pray for the mission of your worldwide Church,
especially at this challenging and uncertain time.

Lord, hear us
and renew our zeal.

Father God,
on this night, Jesus commanded his disciples to love, but
suffered rejection himself. We pray for the rejected and
unloved; for the lonely and anxious; for all who suffer in body,
mind or spirit from Covid-19.

Lord, hear us
and fill us with your love.

Father God,
on this night, Jesus reminded them that if the world hated
them it hated him first. We pray for those who are persecuted
for their faith.

Lord, hear us
and give us your peace.

**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs
from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.**

The Peace

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.

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

Offertory

At the Eucharist we are with our crucified and risen Lord.
We know that it was not only our ancestors,
but we who were redeemed
and brought forth from bondage to freedom,
from mourning to feasting.

We know that as he was with them in the Upper Room
so our Lord is here with us now.

**Until the kingdom of God comes
let us celebrate this feast.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,
you bring forth bread from the earth.

Blessèd be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,
you create the fruit of the vine.

Blessèd be God for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer

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 thanks and praise.

Meek and majestic God,
you set aside the perfection of your Trinitarian life
to create the universe,
and you called the children of Abraham
to be your priestly kingdom.
You gave your people freedom in the parting of the sea
and marked them for life with the blood of the Lamb.
In Jesus you laid aside the robe of your majesty
and knelt among your children,
facing humiliation and rejection.
In his agony in the garden and suffering on the cross
you showed the world the extent of your love
and your longing to bring us home to the throne
where we shall join angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven,
praising your holy name in the unending hymn.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Self-giving God,
in Jesus you became the Lamb
who takes away the sins of the world,
and the living bread,
broken for the life of your children.
Come among us in the power of your Holy Spirit,
that your people, as fragile and fitful as your disciples,
may become your temple,
and that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, 'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me'.



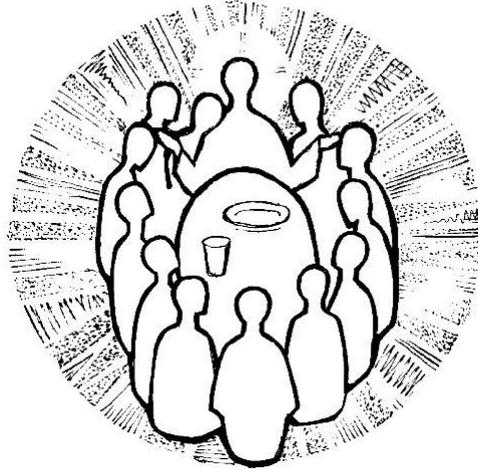
After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'



Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.

Blessèd and broken God, be among your people
who taste the bitter herbs of slavery and oppression;
be close to your children who are poured out
in grief and despair;
remake the Church, your Son's body,
where it is broken by discord and dispute;
and renew your creation in the joy of thanksgiving.

Spread your table in the face of friends and enemies,
that all may know your peace
and gather in the company of your saints,
where you, in the presence of Christ
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit
are all in all, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the bread

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
**we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**



Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
grant us your peace.**

**Lord Jesus,
we believe that you are present in this most holy sacrament.
We love you above all things
and desire to receive you into our souls.
Since we cannot at this moment
receive you sacramentally together,
come into our hearts.
We embrace you, knowing you are already there,
and unite ourselves wholly to you.
Never permit us to be separated from you.
Amen.**

Thanksgiving after Communion

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Dismissal

When the disciples had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed to the Father, 'If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me'.

He said to his disciples, 'How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinful men'

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