

Journeying with Jesus in Holy Week
MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ 9th April 2020

At Supper with Jesus in the Upper Room John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Exodus 12:1-4; Psalms 116:1,10-end; 1 Cor 11:23-26

Passover/ Feet-washing / Eucharist

St George's Prayer

Our Father, as individuals and as a community may we come to know and love you more and more; may we feel your love and care through each other; may we be witnesses to Christ wherever we are, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we be attentive to you, to our neighbour and to your world.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Maundy Thursday Virtual Service. Maundy Thursday celebrates the institution of Holy Communion. "Maundy" means "commandment", and we say in Spanish, *mandamiento*, and comes from Jesus giving us the commandment to love and serve one another as He loved and served us.

At the end of the service the decorations at the front of the church are removed, symbolic of our Lord being stripped of his garments. Tonight we begin the Great Three Days of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection, the journey from the supper table to the cross, from the cross to Easter. We journey with him.

This is the night when Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

This is the night when Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet.

This is the night when Christ called us to love and serve one another.

This is the night when Christ our Lord gave us this holy feast of bread and wine.

This is the night for watching and prayer

This is the night when Christ gave himself into the hands of those who would betray him.

This service does not end tonight; it continues with the worship of Good Friday and concludes with the Vigil of Easter. Together these days proclaim the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen, and ... we can be confident that... Christ will come again.

There is no blessing at the end of the Maundy Thursday liturgy.

Invitation to Confession

✠ St Paul says

'Be imitators of God;

love as Christ loved;

do not grieve the Holy Spirit;

put away all anger and bitterness,
all slander and malice.'

So let us confess our sins to God

who forgives us in Christ.

Absolution

✠ May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring *you* his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

✠ **Reading** John 13:1-17, 31-35

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. **Jesus knew that the hour** had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. **Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.** ²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³**Jesus knew** that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴**so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel round his waist.** ⁵**After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples'**

feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' ⁷ Jesus replied, 'You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' ⁸ 'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.' ⁹ 'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!' ¹⁰ Jesus answered, 'Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.' ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. ¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. ¹³ 'You call me "Teacher" and "Lord", and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. ³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. ³³ 'My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: where I am going, you cannot come. ³⁴ 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

This is the Gospel of our Lord

Passover into Communion

Here at St George's I have conducted a number of Passover services in recent years. Each part of the Passover meal is significant for the story of Jesus. The Passover meal is known as the **Seder**, which means "order," because the meal and service are done in a prescribed sequence; the liturgy or words used are called the **Passover Haggadah** (i.e. "telling"). This year there will be no Passover Meal but I want to mention a couple of things to think about:

✘ **Preparation: Removal of Chametz:** In the days preceding Passover, it is tradition to clean the house thoroughly, and the evening before the Passover Seder any trace of *chametz* (leaven) is removed from the house. As the Israelites prepared for the exodus by obeying the commands of God through Moses, so in removing the *chametz*, we symbolize our willingness to obey God in preparation for celebrating the deliverance he has already brought to His people.

✘ **Lighting the Passover Candles:** The actual Seder begins with the lighting of the Passover candles. Traditionally, the mother of the home lights the candles, just as she lights the candles that signal the beginning of Shabat (Sabbath). The candles symbolize the presence of God and mark this as sacred time.

✘ **The First Cup: Sanctification and Freedom .. *I will bring you out***

✘ **Preparation: The Washing:** A ceremonial hand washing. This is symbolic of the "clean hands" which needs to come before God (Psalm 24:3-4).

✘ **The Second Cup: Deliverance and Redemption .. *I will rescue you***

✘ **The Washing: for all** Probably the Foot washing was at this point.

✘ **Haggadah: The Story of Passover** the Exodus story concluding with the reading *Dayenu*, "It would have been enough".

✘ **The Meal and the Blessing after meal: Deut 8:10**

✘ **The Afikoman (Desert bread)** This is my body broken for you ...

✘ **The Third Cup: Blessing .. *I will redeem you (1 Cor 10:16)*. ... this is my blood**

✘ **The Fourth Cup: Hope & Fulfilment .. *I will take you as my people*.** This cup has traditionally been left untouched, awaiting the time when Elijah would appear to share the Passover; A fifth cup filled for Elijah.

This is the context in which we celebrate Maundy Thursday.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

This form or other suitable words may be used.

Silence may be kept before each section and response.

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father
through Christ the saviour of the world.

on this, the night he 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.**

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.
We pray for the unity of your Church.
Lord, hear us **and unite us.**

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through his disciples' message.
We pray for the mission of your Church.
Lord, hear us **and renew our zeal.**

On this night, he commanded his disciples to love,
but suffered rejection himself.
We pray for the rejected and unloved.
Lord, hear us **and fill us with your love.**

On this night, he reminded his disciples
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.**

On this night, he accepted the cup of death
and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom.
We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.
Lord, hear us **and welcome all your children into paradise.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here **his presence 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.**

It is indeed right to give you thanks,
Father most holy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
For on this night he girded himself with a towel
and, taking the form of a servant,
washed the feet of his disciples.

He gave us a new commandment
that we should love one another as he has loved us.
Knowing that his hour had come,

in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples
to be a memorial of his passion,
that we might proclaim his death until he comes again,
and feast with him in his kingdom.

Therefore earth unites with heaven
to sing a new song of praise;
we too join with angels and archangels
as they proclaim your glory without end:

**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.]**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
**and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;**

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
**Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.**

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, 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.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

**Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom**
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and 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.**

THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
blessed are those who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

*We share together in the communion wherever we are:
the body of Christ given for you, the blood of Christ shed for you*

This Post Communion or another suitable prayer is said

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament
you have given us the memorial of your passion:
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood

that we may know within ourselves
and show forth in our lives the fruit of your redemption,
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Conclusion The Stripping of the Sanctuary

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.'
The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.
It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth,
to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it,
to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope),
to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.
For the Lord will not reject for ever.

The 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 sinners.' Christ was obedient unto death. Go in his peace.

A Watch may be kept.

If the Watch is to be kept there may be a procession and a hymn or psalm may be sung.
The following readings may be used. Silences, introduced by biddings, may follow the readings.

John 13.16-30 Psalm 113

John 14.15-end Psalm 116.1-9

John 16.4b-15 Psalm 118.1-9

John 17.20-end

John 13.31-end Psalm 114

John 15.1-17 Psalm 116.10-end

John 16.16-end Psalm 118.10-18

Luke 22.31-62

John 14.1-14 Psalm 115

John 15.18-16.4a Psalm 117

John 17.1-19 Psalm 118.19-end

