

## Pastoral Introduction to Maundy Thursday

Welcome to the beginning of our celebration together of Easter, the Christian Passover. You may be thinking, 'he's gone a bit barmy, Easter isn't until Sunday', but if you think that, you'd be mistaken. Easter is in fact a three-day festival comprising Good, Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday but because Christians begin celebrating holy days at the dusk of the previous evening, the three days of Easter begin tonight with this Eucharist. The Paschal mystery which we begin to celebrate tonight is one single saving event. The Passion of Jesus and his Resurrection are inseparable and so all three days are considered to be one single liturgical action spread over three days, this is, if you like, one play in three acts which is why not until the end of the first mass of the Resurrection on Easter Day is a blessing given and the congregation dismissed. So tonight though we commemorate distinctive events in the Passion of Jesus; the washing of feet, the Last Supper, the watch in the garden of Gethsemane, this is actually just the beginning of a three day Easter sequence, not an independent festival.

Nor is tonight merely about celebrating things that are historical, events in the life of Our Lord, for in the Christian Passover we commemorate not only the Passover of Christ a singular historical event we also celebrate the Passover of Christians who pass "in Christ" through faith and the sacraments to eternal life, and that certainly is something to celebrate.

At present though we cannot celebrate the Eucharist together we can still gather with angels and archangels and all the heavenly host spiritually. This Eucharist will be celebrated by both Peter and Joyce in their own homes beginning at 8.00pm on Maundy Thursday evening and by other clergy throughout the day at different times. This single act of worship is so much broader and wider than could ever be contained in a single building. Take a few moments to think of others you know who may be joining in with us in their own homes at this time.

## The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

¶ The Gathering

*You may like to sing this hymn out loud or perhaps just hum along with the words in your head.*

- 1 Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.**

- 2 **O loving wisdom of our God!  
when all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.**
  
- 3 **O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
which did in Adam fail,  
should strive afresh against the foe,  
should strive and should prevail;**
  
- 4 **and that a higher gift than grace  
should flesh and blood refine,  
God's presence and his very self,  
and essence all-divine.**
  
- 5 **O generous love! that he, who smote  
in Man for man the foe,  
the double agony in Man  
for man should undergo;**
  
- 6 **and in the garden secretly,  
and on the cross on high,  
should teach his brethren, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.**
  
- 7 **Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:  
'If you love me, keep my commandments.'  
'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'  
Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love,  
and ask him to cleanse us.

## Kyrie Eleison

Have mercy on us, O God,  
according to your loving-kindness:  
and in your great compassion blot out our offences.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Against you only have we sinned:  
and done what is evil in your sight  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Purge us from our sin and we shall be pure: wash us and we shall be clean indeed.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

## The Absolution

*The priest says*

May the Father forgive us  
by the death of his Son  
and strengthen us  
to live in the power of the Spirit  
all our days.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Collect

God our Father,  
your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end  
and drank the cup prepared for him:  
may we who share his table  
watch with him through the night of suffering  
and be faithful.

*All* **Amen.**

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

### The Readings

First Reading

*Exodus 12.1-4, 11-14*

Second Reading

*1 Corinthians 11.23-26*

## Gospel Antiphon and Reading

The Gospel reading is John 13: 1-17 & 31-35.

## Sermon

*Canon Joyce has written a Homily for today which you may like to read at this point*

## Prayers of Intercession

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

Father,  
On this, the night that 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

*All* **and humble us.**

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.  
We pray for the unity of your Church, for Justin our archbishop,  
Stephen our diocesan bishop and Peter our area bishop, the benefice ministry  
team and all who are called to be your disciples in their many various roles and  
ministries.  
Lord, hear us and unite us.

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

On this night, he commanded them 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 fill us with your love.

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.  
**Amen.**

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you

*All* **and also with you.**

### Altar Prayer

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 he was with them in the upper room  
so our Lord is here with us now

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

*The priest takes the bread and wine and says.*

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

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

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

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **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:

*All* **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, on this most holy night,  
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.

Christ is the bread of life:

*All* **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

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,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*All* **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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## Agnus Dei

**All Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*You may wish to leave the service at this point.*

*If you prefer, you may wish to now spend some time in quiet and reflective prayer. You may find that keeping the "watch" for time will give you a focus for those prayers.*

## The Watch

*Under normal circumstances when celebrating this Eucharist in church The people remain kneeling whilst the priest, servers and acolytes withdraw and begin the 'Stripping of the Altars' during which the choir sings Psalm 22 usually in plainsong tones At the end of the psalm silence is kept and then these verses from the book of Lamentations are read.*

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people!  
How like a widow she has become,  
she that was great among the nations!  
She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks;  
among all her lovers she has no-one to comfort her.

**All Jerusalem, Jerusalem,  
return to the Lord your God.**

The roads to Zion mourn, for no-one comes to the festivals;



all her gates are desolate, her priests groan;  
her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter.  
Her children have gone away, captives before the foe.  
Is it nothing to you all you who pass by?  
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.

*All*     **Jerusalem, Jerusalem,  
return to the Lord your God**

From on high he sent fire; it went deep into my bones;  
he spread a net for my feet; he turned me back;  
he has left me stunned, faint all day long.  
For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears;  
for a comforter is far from me, one to receive my        courage;  
my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed.

*All*     **Jerusalem, Jerusalem,  
return to the Lord your God**

All those who pass along the way clap their hands at you;  
they hiss and wag their heads at daughter Jerusalem;  
'Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of all the earth?'  
The thought of my affliction and homelessness  
is wormwood and gall.

*All*     **Jerusalem, Jerusalem,  
return to the Lord your God**

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

*All*     **Jerusalem, Jerusalem,  
return to the Lord your God**

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.

*All*     **Jerusalem, Jerusalem,  
return to the Lord your God**

*The Gospel of the Watch, Mark 14: 26-end, is read after which greater silence begins. In a monastic community this means keeping silence until the first prayers of the following morning.*

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