

# A LITURGY FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

## LITURGICAL NOTES

This liturgy is celebrated once on this day, normally in the evening.

The name 'Maundy' derives from the Latin for 'new commandment' – *mandatum novum* – which Christ (according to John) gave his disciples at the 'Last Supper'.

Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the Great Three Days. This holiest time of the year contains differing emphases, but it is, nevertheless, a continuum.

This is a very rich liturgy. The Gospel speaks of love and service, which are also expressed in the ceremony of the foot washing. The New Testament reading records the institution of the Lord's Supper. The evening setting highlights the nearness of the betrayal and approaching passion of Jesus.

The liturgical colour may be passion red, sackcloth or plain white.

NB: references to the Psalms are to the version printed *APBA*.

With Great Thanksgiving Number 1 the proper preface for Maundy Thursday is used.

When the footwashing ceremony is observed, it is appropriate that it take place after the Gospel or after the sermon. The presider may wash the feet of members of the congregation, and they may also wash one another's feet. In the latter case it is advisable to have more than one bowl, jug, and towel. Hymns or anthems may be sung, or silence may be kept.

At the end of the service, a silent Watch or Prayer Vigil may be observed until the Good Friday liturgy. To emphasise the corporate nature of this time of silent prayer, a shorter vigil may be kept with numbers of people together.

If, for pastoral reasons, it is necessary to celebrate the Eucharist more than once on this day, it is recommended that the Introduction and Washing of the Feet be omitted at all but the evening service.

A communal meal may be shared in association with the Eucharist. It should be a simple *agape* (love feast). Material for such an *agape* meal can be found in the *Book of Occasional Services* (ECUSA) and elsewhere. The practice of celebrating a Passover Seder in this week is discouraged. The Christian Passover is celebrated at the Great Vigil of Easter. Material prepared by the *Council of Christians and Jews* is useful on this matter.

## A LITURGY FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*As the ministers enter, a hymn may be sung.*

*The presider says*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*A minister may then address the people in these or similar words.*

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 dawn. We are followers in his way, exploring his truth, encountering his life.

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

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

This is the night when Christ our Lord gave us this holy feast, that as we break the bread and drink the cup we may here proclaim his holy sacrifice, and come at the last to his table in heaven.

This is the night when Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, showing us how to honour and serve one another in love.

This is the night for watching and prayer.

We give ourselves freely to the demands of these great days, confident that those who die in Christ will surely live with him.

*A minister introduces the Confession.*

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves'  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Standing, the presider says*

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith,  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,

strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The presider then says or sings the Collect.*

Let us pray.

*Silence may be kept.*

Loving God  
your Son Jesus Christ has left us this meal  
of bread and wine in which we share his body and blood.  
May we who celebrate this sign of his great love  
show in our lives the fruits of his redemption;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*Old Testament Reading: Exodus 12.1-14 or Exodus 12.1-4, 11-14*

*Psalms 116.1-2, 11-18*

*New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 11.23-26*

*A hymn or anthem may be sung.*

*Gospel Reading: John 13.1-17, 31b-35*

*The Sermon*

*The Washing of Feet may take place before or after the Prayers.*

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God, on this, the night he was betrayed,  
your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.  
As we commit ourselves to following his example of love and service,  
teach us humility.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

On this night, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one.  
As we grieve for the divisions in the church,  
unite us.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

On this night, Jesus prayed for those who would come to believe  
through the disciples' message.  
As we take up the mission of the church,  
renew our zeal.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

On this night, Jesus commanded his friends to love,

but he suffered rejection himself.  
As we open our hearts to the rejected and the unloved,  
fill us with your love.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

On this night, Jesus reminded his people that, if the world hated them,  
it had hated him first.  
As we face our own fears, we pray for those who are persecuted for their faith;  
give us your peace.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

On this night, Jesus loved his friends to the very end,  
As we open our hearts to all who face darkness tonight,  
we pray for the sick, those who mourn, those trapped by violence, addiction, or pain:  
give healing and hope.

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, these are the prayers of your Church.  
**We offer them trusting and hoping in you.  
Hear and help us, challenge and change us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

[THE WASHING OF FEET]

*When the Washing of Feet is to take place, the presider says*

Friends in Christ, I invite you to come forward,  
that we may recall whose servants we are  
and remember his teaching,  
that what is done for us is also to be done for others.

*Hymns or anthems may be sung during the washing (see Appendix) or it may take place in silence.*

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.  
**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*All may exchange a greeting of peace.*

*While the Table is prepared a hymn may be sung.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
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.**

...

**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, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

...

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

*The presider breaks the bread, and says,*

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies,  
it remains just a single grain;  
but if it dies it bears much fruit.

**If we have died with him, we shall live with him.**

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ  
in remembrance that he died for us,  
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Communion is administered in the customary manner.*

*The following may be said or sung.*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

*Silence may be kept.*

## AFTER COMMUNION

*The presider may say*

Holy God, source of all love,  
on the night of betrayal  
Jesus commanded his disciples  
to love one another as he loved them.  
We thank you for feeding us in this supper.  
Give us the will to serve others  
as he was servant of all.

*A hymn may be sung.*

*The linen, ornaments, and hangings may be removed.*

*Psalm 88 (without Gloria Patri) or Psalm 22 may be sung or said, or Mark 14.41b-50 may be read.*

*Ministers and people depart in silence without a blessing or dismissal.*

*When a Vigil of Prayer is to be kept it begins now.*

### **Appendix**

*The following hymn may be used during the Washing of the Feet.*

*Ubi caritas et amor*

1. Where love and loving kindness dwell  
there God will ever be.  
one Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
in perfect charity.
2. Brought here together into one  
by Christ our Shepherd-king,  
now let us in his love rejoice,  
and of his goodness sing.
3. Here too let God, the loving God,  
both loved and honoured be;  
and let us each the other love  
with true sincerity.
4. Brought here together by Christ's love,  
let no ill-will divide,  
nor quarrels break the unity  
of those for whom he died.
5. Let envy, jealousy and strife  
and all contention cease,  
for in our midst serves Christ the Lord,  
our sacrament of peace.
6. Together may we with the saints  
thy face in glory see,  
and ever in thy kingdom feast,  
O Christ our God, with thee.