



Maundy Thursday | 28 March 2024

Are we prepared to wash the feet of our enemies?

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and God's ownership of all things (Psalm 24:1). In God's sovereignty, God has allowed other groups to migrate to these shores. We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are thankful for the community that we share together now.

Welcome

The Deacon [or Cantor] will open the service saying,

Thank you for joining us for worship today. We especially welcome those who are joining us via our livestream. If you could please stand to sing our opening hymn:

Opening Hymn: An Upper Room did our Lord Prepare

An upper room did our Lord prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there
to celebrate their risen friend.

And after supper he washed their feet,
for service, too, is sacrament.
In Christ our joy shall be made complete:
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by his cross shall lift us up.

No end there is! We depart in peace,
he loves beyond the uttermost:
in every room in our Father's house
Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

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Minister's Greeting

Return to the Lord, God of all mercies, for a feast of love has been prepared for his own. **I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall be continually in my mouth.**

O taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
Happy are they who take refuge in God.

O magnify the lord with me, **and let us exalt God's name together**

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 our Saviour 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.

The Confession

My brothers and sisters, Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of his Spirit.

Merciful God,

we your church confess that often our spirit has not been that of Christ. Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us, where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him.

Forgive us, we pray, and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Deacon: Please stand to hear God's promise of forgiveness

Assurance of Forgiveness

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.**

Collect of the Day

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, and 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. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

The Old Testament Reading comes from the book of Exodus, chapter 12 verses 1-4 and 11-14.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ²“This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbour, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat.

¹¹This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover. ¹²“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. ¹⁴“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.

Hear the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm of the day is 116, verses 1 and 2, and 11 to 18.

¹ I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

² **Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.**

¹¹ in my alarm I said, "Everyone is a liar."

¹² **What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me?**

¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁴ **I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.**

¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants.

¹⁶ **Truly I am your servant, LORD; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains.**

¹⁷ I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁸ **I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,**

Holy God, holy and mighty, **holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

The New Testament reading comes from the Apostle Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth, chapter 11 verses 23 to 26.

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Glory to you, **Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Gospel Song: Kneels at the feet of His friends

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet:
master who acts as a slave to them.

*Yesu, Yesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.*

Neighbours are wealthy and poor,
varied in colour and race,
neighbours are near us and far away.

Yesu, Yesu,...

These are the ones we should serve;
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbours to us and you.
Loving puts us on our knees,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.

Yesu, Yesu...

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The Gospel of our Lord

The Gospel of our Lord according to John chapter 13, commencing at verse 1. Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

During the Gospel reading Reverend Melinda will wash the feet of the saints as a symbolic representation of Christ's instruction to serve one another.

¹It 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. ² The 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 around 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 around 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 realize 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 everyone 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 **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Message: Would you have invited Judas to your dinner party?

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.

Gracious Father who sent your Son Jesus to be our Intercessor, **this we pray.**

On this night, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one. As we grieve for the divisions in the church, unite us. Gracious Father who sent your Son Jesus to be our Intercessor, **this we pray.**

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. Gracious Father who sent your Son Jesus to be our Intercessor, **this we pray.**

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. Gracious Father who sent your Son Jesus to be our Intercessor, **this we pray.**

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. Gracious Father who sent your Son Jesus to be our Intercessor, **this we pray.**

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.

Gracious Father who sent your Son Jesus to be our Intercessor, **this we pray.**

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

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.**

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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who became obedient until death, even death on a cross. He offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

When his hour had come, in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples, that we might proclaim his death, and feast with him in his kingdom.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, 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.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Drink from this, all for you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

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

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:

proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by our Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

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

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.

Commitment to live as disciples of Christ

Faithful saints you are welcome to sit in silence with Jesus after the last hymn for as long as you wish and leave in silence as we reflect on this Holiest of Holy Nights.

Holy God, source of all love, on this 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.

Go forth in peace to walk the way of his cross and resurrection.

We are sent in the name of the Lord.

May Jesus Christ, who was raised to life for our salvation, let light shine upon you. **Amen.**

May Jesus Christ be your life and peace, now and forever. **Thanks be to God.**

As the closing hymn is sung the Holy Table is stripped bare by the deacons and sanctuary assistants.

Closing Hymn: Oh Lord, Hear my Prayer

Oh Lord, hear my prayer, Oh Lord, hear my prayer
When I call answer me, Oh Lord, hear my prayer
Oh Lord, hear my prayer, Come and listen to me.