

MAUNDY THURSDAY

INTRODUCTION

The word 'Maundy' is derived from the first words of the traditional Latin anthem '*Mandatum novum do vobis*' ('A new commandment I give to you', John 13:34). A re-enactment of the foot-washing scene also became central to the Maundy Thursday liturgy.

The celebration of Holy Communion on this day should be marked by joyful thanksgiving for Christ's gift of this sacrament to his Church. In the words and actions which may follow the Lord's Supper, a more sombre mood prevails.

In some churches it is customary on Maundy Thursday to remove all vessels, cloths, books and furnishings from the sanctuary as a sign of the desolation of Gethsemane.

After the main Maundy Thursday service *A Prayer Vigil* may be held as a response to our Lord's invitation to watch and pray; or *A Service of Light and Darkness* may be held.

NOTES

- 1 The basic elements of the service are marked by the symbol *. Other sections may be omitted.
- 2 If foot-washing is to be included in the service, it may take one of three forms. Either the minister may wash the feet of twelve members of the congregation, or a small group may wash each other's feet in turn, or the first and second forms may be used together.
- 3 When there is *A Service of Light and Darkness*, the number of candles to be lit is one fewer than the number of readings. Following each reading, except the last, a candle is extinguished. The last candle, the Christ candle, is extinguished at the end of the penultimate reading (the death of Christ). Apart from a light for the reader, the building is in darkness for the final reading.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

* 1 The presiding minister says:

On this night, our Lord Jesus Christ said:
'A new commandment I give to you,
that you love each other, as I have loved you.'

2 Hymn

* 3 The presiding minister says:

Let us confess our sins to God and ask him to cleanse us.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you,
against our neighbour,
and against each other,
in thought, word and deed,
in the evil we have done
and in the good we have not done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love
and marred your image within 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 of darkness**

to walk as children of light. Amen.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim
to you,

that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.

If we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

we have fellowship with one another,

and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

This is Christ's gracious word:

'Your sins are forgiven.'

Amen. Thanks be to God.

4 *Glory to God in the highest*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.

* 5 Let us pray.

God our Father,
you have invited us to share in the supper
which your Son gave to his Church.
Nourish us, we pray, by his presence,
and unite us in his love;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

* 6 Old Testament reading: Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

7 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

* 8 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

9 Hymn

*10 A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Hear the Gospel of Christ.
Glory to Christ our Saviour.

The Gospel, John 13:1-17, 31b-35, is read.

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

*11 Sermon

12 The service may continue with the washing of feet.
Otherwise, the service continues from no. 15.

THE WASHING OF FEET

13 The presiding minister says:

Let us pray.

Gracious God,
your Son Jesus Christ girded himself with a towel
and washed the feet of his disciples.
Give us the will to be the servants of others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us,
yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

14 Those who are to have their feet washed move to the front.
Water is poured over their feet, which are dried with a towel.
During the foot-washing there may be appropriate music.
Those who have had their feet washed return to their places.

***15 These or some other prayers of intercession:**

Let us pray.
 Father, on this night, the night on which he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet and said that they ought to wash one another's feet.
 We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.
 Lord, hear us.
Lord, humble us.
 On this night, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one.
 We pray for the unity of your Church . . .
 Lord, hear us.
Lord, unite us.
 On this night, Jesus prayed for those who were to believe in him.
 We pray for the mission of your Church . . .
 Lord, hear us.
Lord, renew our zeal.
 On this night, Jesus commanded his disciples to love, but suffered rejection himself.
 We pray for those who are rejected and unloved . . .
 Lord, hear us.
Lord, fill us with your love.
 On this night, Jesus reminded his disciples that if the world hated them it first hated him.
 We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith . . .
 Lord, hear us.
Lord, increase our faith.

On this night, Jesus told his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them.

We remember in your presence all who have died . . . and those who have been bereaved . . .

Lord, hear us.
Lord, renew our hope and trust in you.

***16 The Lord's Prayer**

EITHER

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

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.

OR

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

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.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

*17 **The Peace**

All stand.

On this night,
our Lord Jesus Christ said to his disciples:
'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.'

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

The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

18 Hymn

*19 The offerings of the people are presented. Bread and wine are brought to the table (or if already on the table are uncovered). The presiding minister takes the bread and wine and prepares them for use.

THE THANKSGIVING

*20 **All stand.**

*21 **The presiding minister leads the great prayer of 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.

Lord our God,
you brought everything into existence,
and created us in your own image and likeness.
When in our sin we turned from you,
you did not leave us in darkness.

On the night of the Passover
you delivered your chosen people.
In the wilderness you fed them
with bread from heaven
and led them to the promised land.

In your enduring love,
you sent your Son to be our Saviour.
By his life and death
and his rising from the tomb,
you offer to all the gift of eternal life.
Through him
you sent your Holy Spirit
to be with your people for ever.

In communion with your faithful servants
in every time and place
we join with all creation in the eternal hymn:

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

God of grace and mercy,
we remember how,
on this night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread
and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take this, all of you, and eat it.
This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup; he gave you thanks and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup, we share this paschal mystery in remembrance of Christ your Son, and we offer our lives to serve you. Send your Spirit of life and power that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

By that same Spirit may we be made worthy to live for you and to tell of your saving power.

Give grace to us that our words and deeds may not betray you, but that we may love one another as your Son commanded.

Remember, Lord, all whom you have called to serve you in your holy Church, and all who offer themselves for the life of the world.

Unite us at the table in your kingdom with all who have faithfully served you.

We offer our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, belong endless praise and eternal blessing, now and through all ages. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

***22 The presiding minister breaks the bread in the sight of the people in silence, or saying:**

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.

***23 Silence, all seated or kneeling**

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

***24 The presiding minister, those assisting with the distribution, and the people receive, according to local custom.**

The presiding minister may say these or other words of invitation:

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy 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.

***25 Words such as the following are said during the distribution:**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

26 During the distribution this or some other hymn may be sung:

Sing, my tongue, the Saviour's glory,
Of his cross the mystery sing;
Lift on high the wondrous trophy,
Tell the triumph of the King:
He, the world's Redeemer, conquers
Death, through death now vanquishing.

On the night of that last supper
Seated with his chosen band,
He, the paschal victim eating,
First fulfils the law's command,
Then as food to his disciples
Gives himself with his own hand.

Word made flesh! His word life-giving,
Gives his flesh our meat to be,
Bids us drink his blood, believing,
Through his death, we life shall see:
Blessèd they who thus receiving
Are from death and sin set free.

Low in adoration bending,
Now our hearts our God revere;
Faith her aid to sight is lending,
Though unseen the Lord is near;
Ancient types and shadows ending,
Christ our paschal Lamb is here.

Praise for ever, thanks and blessing,
Thine, O gracious Father, be;
Praise be thine, O Christ, who bringest
Life and immortality;
Praise be thine, thou quickening Spirit,
Praise through all eternity.

*27 The elements that remain are covered with a white cloth.

PRAYERS AND DISMISSAL

28 Silence

29 Let us pray.

Gracious God,
we thank you for the gift of this sacrament
in which we remember Jesus Christ your Son.
May we who revere this sacred mystery
know and reveal in our lives
the fruits of his redemption;
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

30 Hymn

If *A Service of Light and Darkness* is to follow, the candles are lit.

31 The service may continue with *The Gospel of the Watch* or *A Service of Light and Darkness*. Either may be followed by *The Stripping of the Communion Table*, or *A Prayer Vigil*, or both.

Otherwise, the service concludes with these words:

When the disciples had sung a hymn
they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus prayed to his Father:

'If it is possible,
take this cup of suffering from me;
yet not my will but yours be done.'

Christ was obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

32 All leave in silence.