

The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

Opening Hymn

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.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;

And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.

O generous love! that he, who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;

And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.

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.

John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Collect

God our Father,
you have invited us to share in the
supper
which your Son gave to his Church
to proclaim his death until he comes:
may he nourish us 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.

Reading Exodus 12.1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in
the land of Egypt: This month shall
mark for you the beginning of months;
it shall be the first month of the year
for you. Tell the whole congregation of
Israel that on the tenth of this month
they are to take a lamb for each
family, a lamb for each household. If a
household is too small for a whole
lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour

in obtaining one; the lamb shall be
divided in proportion to the number
of people who eat of it. Your lamb
shall be without blemish, a year-old
male; you may take it from the sheep
or from the goats. You shall keep it
until the fourteenth day of this
month; then the whole assembled
congregation of Israel shall slaughter
it at twilight. They shall take some of
the blood and put it on the two
doorposts and the lintel of the
houses in which they eat it. They shall
eat the lamb that same night; they
shall eat it roasted over the fire with
unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in
water, but roasted over the fire, with
its head, legs, and inner organs. You
shall let none of it remain until the
morning; anything that remains until
the morning you shall burn. This is
how you shall eat it: your loins
girded, your sandals on your feet, and
your staff in your hand; and you shall
eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of
the Lord. For I will pass through the
land of Egypt that night, and I will
strike down every firstborn in the
land of Egypt, both human beings and
animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will
execute judgements: I am the Lord.
The blood shall be a sign for you on
the houses where you live: when I
see the blood, I will pass over you,
and no plague shall destroy you when
I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of
remembrance for you. You shall
celebrate it as a festival to the Lord;
throughout your generations you
shall observe it as a perpetual
ordinance.

Psalm Psalm 116:1, 10-end

R *Gracious is the Lord and righteous.*

I love the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of my
supplication;
because he inclined his ear to me
on the day I called to him. **R**

How shall I repay the Lord
for all the benefits he has given to
me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation

and call upon the name of the Lord.
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people. **R**

Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful servants.
O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant, the child of your
handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
I will offer to you a sacrifice of
thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the Lord. **R**

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the house of the Lord,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. **R**

Reading 1 Corinthians 11.23-26

For I received from the Lord what I
also handed on to you, that the Lord
Jesus on the night when he was
betrayed took a loaf of bread, and
when he had given thanks, he broke it
and said, 'This is my body that is for
you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In
the same way he took the cup also,
after supper, saying, 'This cup is the
new covenant in my blood. Do this, as
often as you drink it, in remembrance
of me.' For as often as you eat this
bread and drink the cup, you proclaim
the Lord's death until he comes.

Gospel John 13.1-17,31b-35

Now before the festival of the
Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had
come to depart from this world and go
to the Father. Having loved his own
who were in the world, he loved them
to the end. The devil had already put it
into the heart of Judas son of Simon
Iscaiot to betray him. And during
supper Jesus, knowing that the Father
had given all things into his hands, and
that he had come from God and was
going to God, got up from the table,
took off his outer robe, and tied a
towel around himself. Then he poured
water into a basin and began to wash
the disciples' feet and to wipe them
with the towel that was tied around
him. He came to Simon Peter, who
said to him, 'Lord, are you going to
wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You
do not know now what I am doing, but

later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

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 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.**

Preparation of the Table

Blessed are you, Lord God of all
creation:
through your goodness we have this
bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human
hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all
creation:
through your goodness we have this
wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human
hands.
It will become for us the cup of
salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

Post Communion

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.

The Conclusion

The Stripping of the Sanctuary

*The altar is stripped bare as Psalm 88
is read.*

Closing Hymn

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.

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.

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

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

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

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.