

A Service for Maundy Thursday

April 9, 2020 • Maundy Thursday

(adapted from the *Book of Alternative Services*, pages 304-307)

If you are praying with one or more others, the service can be divided between the plain and bold text. If you are praying by yourself, you can say all of the prayers aloud or silently. During Holy Week, it is fitting that a cross be placed near where you will be praying.

The Introduction

This is the day
that Christ the Lamb of God
gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

This is the day
that Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

This is the day
that Christ took a towel
and washed the disciples' feet,
giving us an example that we should do to others
as he has done to us.

This is the day
that Christ our God gave us this holy feast,
that we who eat this bread
and drink this cup
may here proclaim his Holy Sacrifice
and be partakers of his resurrection,
and at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

The collect of the day may be said. This is the collect for Maundy Thursday:

O God,
your Son Jesus Christ
has left to us this meal of bread and wine
in which we share his body and his 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.

Reading

The Gospel may be read. Mathew 26.26-29 is appropriate for Maundy Thursday:

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Following the reading you may contemplate in silence, or discuss the scripture passage with others, or read a related work of literature.

Intercessions

Prayers may be offered for the church, those in authority, the world, those in need, and the departed. You may use the following litany alone or with others:

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Conclusion

A hymn may be sung. This one goes to the tune Redhead No. 76 (Petra)

1. Go to dark Gethsemane,
You who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see;
Watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the judgment hall;
View the Lord of life arraigned;
O the worm-wood and the gall!
O the grief his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn of him to bear the cross.
3. Calvary's mournful mountain climb
There, adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" Hear him cry;
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

The continuation of the Gospel of Mathew may be read. Mathew 26:30-46 is appropriate for the conclusion of Maundy Thursday and leads us into Good Friday:

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

"I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.' Peter said to him, 'Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.' Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you,

this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' Peter said to him, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."