

Maundy Thursday Service 9th April 2020



Simon Ushakov's icon of the *Mystical Supper*.

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Hymn 1

38 An upper room did our lord prepare

With lyrics

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzlregrzB_s

Without lyrics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2lukOxMrBA>

Collect

Let us pray that we may love one another as Christ has loved us.

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.
Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 12:1-4; 11-14 -The First Passover Instituted

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 2 This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 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. 4 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.

11 In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute for ever, you shall keep it as a feast.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - The Institution of the Lord's Supper

11 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, 24 and after 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, he also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, every time you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Hymn 2

299 I am the bread of life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CRMbh8ViUI>

Gospel Reading

John 13:1-17; 31-35 - Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Washing the Disciples' Feet

13 Just before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that his time had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now loved them to the very end. ² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, that he should betray Jesus. ³ Because Jesus[h] knew that the Father had handed all things over to him, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ he got up from the meal, removed his outer clothes, took a towel and tied it around himself. ⁵ He poured water into the washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel he had wrapped around himself.

⁶ Then he came to Simon Peter. Peter[n] said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not understand what I am doing now, but you will understand after these things." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus replied, "The one who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ (For Jesus knew the one who was going to betray him. For this reason he said, "Not every one of you is clean.")

¹² So when Jesus had washed their feet and put his outer clothing back on, he took his place at the table again and said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you?" ¹³ You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and do so correctly, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you too ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example—you should do just as I have done for you. ¹⁶ I tell you the solemn truth the slave is not greater than his master, nor is the one who is sent as a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you understand these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

I give to you a new commandment (P Nardone): Chelmsford & Brentwood Cathedrals

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0L8WV7mXAO>

Sermon by Revd Steven

Let us begin with a prayer. Heavenly Father, give us your grace and spirit and speak to our hearts and minds, so that we may draw closer to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Maundy Thursday is the Christian holy day falling on the Thursday before Easter. It commemorates the Washing of the Feet (Maundy) and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles, as described in the canonical gospels.

It is the fifth day of Holy Week, preceded by Holy Wednesday (Spy Wednesday) and followed by Good Friday. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, or commandment, reflecting Jesus' words "I give you a new commandment."

Maundy Thursday initiates the Easter Triduum, the period which commemorates the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus; this period includes Good Friday and Holy Saturday, and ends on the evening of Easter. The Mass of the Lord's Supper or service of worship is normally celebrated in the evening, when Friday begins according to Jewish tradition, as the Last Supper was held on the feast of Passover, according to the three Synoptic Gospels.

In our readings today, we see the true character of God in Jesus, in showing us his perfect love in the Last Supper and the washing of the disciples feet. In the New Testament, we find the words with which Jesus instituted Holy Communion/Eucharist four separate times, there are three times in the Gospels and in St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. When St Paul comes to pass them on, it is in the middle of a rebuke about divisions in the Christian community in Corinth and a lack of interest in the poor.

St Paul calls this a failure to 'discern the body'. Here, there is a failure of discernment, not once, but twice. The Church in

Corinth do not discern in the sacrament of bread and wine, the seriousness it deserves as the body of Christ, nor do they discern the presence of Christ in his people and especially the needy. What does this say to us today? When we meet God in Holy Communion/Eucharist, are we discerning how we can be united where there are divisions and how we can serve the needy around us?

In our Gospel reading from John, Jesus' act of loving service to his disciples is emplaced into Christian history. It is acted out in the evening of Maundy Thursday and down the centuries it has inspired many to imitate the Lord's example in daring acts of care and compassion through the washing of the disciples feet. We can see this now in the NHS in caring for our nation and it shows us a symbol of the cleansing sacrifice of Jesus at calvary of our sins.

We have already seen the humility of Jesus is the arrival into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday and now we see his humility in sharing the Passover meal with his disciples and then washing their feet which is the task of a slave and not the master. Peter had to let Christ serve him, before his service could be of any value and I'm sure this is true of all the disciples in learning the theme of service in discipleship. On this evening, have we let Christ truly serve our needs and he kneels before us to wash our feet too? Are there things in our lives that we are to let go of and let Christ wash away any pain or resentment we have for others?

God has provided us with the greatest gift in Holy Communion/Eucharist. Even though we cannot receive this now, we still celebrate on this day, this amazing gift that God has given to us, and we look forward to sometime in the future, when we can share in this deep Communion with God in bread and wine.

As we recall these great acts of humility from God in the washing of the disciples feet and the sharing of the Passover meal, May God care for you during this time and may you know the great love God has for us. During this times at home, try to imagine yourself at the Last Supper and Jesus washing your feet and feel God's love you in a different way.

We must continue this great love that God brought to us in Jesus in our days ahead in acts of love for the needy, which he

brought first to his disciples and then his followers after his death and resurrection, so that we can also continue to proclaim his death until he comes again and show that we are his disciples, **Amen**.



Christ Washing The Apostles' Feet is a painting by Peter Paul Rubens

Hymn 3

411 Lord Jesus Christ

With lyrics

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QA_g98O42Q4

Prayers

Intersessions by Cassandra

Dear Lord,

As we move through Holy Week, on this Maundy Thursday - when we think of Jesus washing the feet of others, knowing he was to serve, to show the way for his disciples and followers, that as Christians we are to serve, help us to find ways in these extraordinary times, whilst following guidance to protect ourselves we are still able to put others first and show service.

We thank you for the creation we see from our windows, for the springtime - it's growth and brightness, reminding us to breathe and finding beauty in the smallest things, to be grateful even in times of adversity.

We ask you to protect us at this time from the invisible virus. Be with all the key workers that are protecting, serving and caring for the nation. We ask that your arms of protection are around them. Be with all those that are suffering, help them find peace in you, come around the families of those who are ill, fill them with your holy calmness.

We thank you for your grace and mercy and ask you give us wisdom, patience and hope. Be with the politicians and the decision makers, give them the confidence to protect and serve.

We lift up the lives of those who have passed, may they now be at rest, come alongside their families as they mourn in these difficult times, may they find reassurance in the happy memories gone by. Especially in our joint benefice we think of those who serve, who are ill, those with covid 19, those that are deceased and their families.

May we take joy in the little things, may we be glad of more time with our close family. Lead us to your word for comfort and knowledge, be with us all this special day and always.

In Jesus' name

Amen

We have been asked to pray for the following:

Nigel and Wendy Cole

Lee Pryer

Terry Hall and all with the coronavirus

And for:

Angus Bettany

Shirley Hill

Keith Poss

All residents at Down Hall and the Swan care homes

And all in our parishes that need your prayers at this time.

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your son,
our saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

All Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.

Blessing

May Christ,
who accepted the cup of sacrifice
in obedience to the Father's will,
keep us steadfast as we walk with him the way of his cross.
Amen.

Let us now go in peace to love and serve the Lord in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

The Altar is stripped

In many Churches this ceremony is performed at the conclusion of Maundy Thursday service, "in which all appointments, linens, and paraments" are removed from the altar and chancel in preparation for Good Friday.

As the altar is stripped we listen to music and read Psalm 22.

Music: AGNUS DEI by Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36Y_ztEW1NE



Psalm 22 - Why Have You Forsaken Me?

22 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my
groaning?

² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.

- ³ Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴ In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- ⁵ To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
- ⁶ But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
- ⁷ All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
- ⁸ "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"
- ⁹ Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.
- ¹⁰ On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.
- ¹¹ Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.
- ¹² Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
- ¹³ they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.
- ¹⁴ I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;

- ¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.
- ¹⁶ For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet
- ¹⁷ I can count all my bones
they stare and gloat over me;
- ¹⁸ they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
- ¹⁹ But you, O Lord, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
- ²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!
- ²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!
- ²² I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
- ²³ You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- ²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.
- ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
- ²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!

May your hearts live for ever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.

²⁸ For kingship belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰ Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people
yet unborn,
that he has done it.

End