

# Maundy Thursday

## Introduction

Some will find it helpful to have a space as a focus for their prayer. This might include a crucifix, icon or other holy image, and a lighted candle.

Some will like to sing a familiar hymn. The following is a translation of one of the hymns which St Thomas Aquinas wrote for the feast of Corpus Christi which for many years has been sung on Maundy Thursday as well, often accompanying the procession to the place of repose at the end of Mass.

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|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Of the glorious body telling,<br>O my tongue, its myst'ries sing,<br>and the blood, all price excelling,<br>which the world's eternal king,<br>in a noble womb once dwelling,<br>shed for this world's ransoming. | 3 | At the last great supper lying,<br>circled by his brethren's band,<br>meekly with the law complying,<br>first he finished its command,<br>then, immortal food supplying,<br>gave himself with his own hand. |
| 2 | Giv'n for us, for us descending,<br>of a virgin to proceed,<br>man with man in converse blending,<br>scattered he the gospel seed,<br>till his sojourn drew to ending,<br>which he closed in wondrous deed.       | 4 | Word made flesh, by word he maketh<br>very bread his flesh to be;<br>man in wine Christ's blood partaketh,<br>and if senses fail to see,<br>faith alone the true heart waketh<br>to behold the mystery.     |

## Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

## Gloria

The Paschal Triduum, the three days in which we remember Jesus' Passion Death and Resurrection, marks the end of Lent and so we sing the Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have  
mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive  
our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father, have mercy on us.

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.

## Liturgy of the Word

Some will have time to read and reflect on all of the day's readings, these are given at the end of this leaflet. Others will wish to take time with just one of them: the Gospel follows.

## Gospel

John 13:1-45

*Now he showed how perfect his love was.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

It was before the festival of the Passover, and Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father. He had always loved those who were his in the world, but now he showed how perfect his love was.

They were at supper, and the devil had already put it into the mind of Judas Iscariot son of Simon, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, and he got up from table, removed his outer garment and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'At the moment you do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'Never!' said Peter 'You shall never wash my feet.' Jesus replied, 'If I do not wash you, you can have nothing in common with me.' 'Then, Lord,' said Simon Peter 'not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!' Jesus said, 'No one who has taken a bath needs washing, he is clean all over. You too are clean, though not all of you are.' He knew who was going to betray him, that was why he said, 'though not all of you are.'

When he had washed their feet and put on his clothes again he went back to the table. 'Do you understand' he said 'what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Silent reflection

Pause for a moment of silent reflection.

## Prayers

Intercessions

Pray for all those, who, at this time, 'wash the feet' of others.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father...

Concluding Prayer

God of compassion,  
in the Garden your Son Jesus did not refuse the cup of suffering  
but took on the sins of the world so that we might be redeemed.  
Be with all who are suffering tonight  
and grant them comfort, strength and healing.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Maundy Thursday Readings

### First Reading

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

*Instructions concerning the Passover meal.*

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ‘This month is to be the first of all the others for you, the first month of your year. Speak to the whole community of Israel and say, “On the tenth day of this month each man must take an animal from the flock, one for each family: one animal for each household. If the household is too small to eat the animal, a man must join with his neighbour, the nearest to his house, as the number of persons requires. You must take into account what each can eat in deciding the number for the animal. It must be an animal without blemish, a male one year old; you may take it from either sheep or goats. You must keep it till the fourteenth day of the month when the whole assembly of the community of Israel shall slaughter it between the two evenings. Some of the blood must then be taken and put on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where it is eaten. That night, the flesh is to be eaten, roasted over the fire; it must be eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. You shall eat it like this: with a girdle round your waist, sandals on your feet, a staff in your hand. You shall eat it hastily; it is a passover in honour of the Lord. That night, I will go through the land of Egypt and strike down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, man and beast alike, and I shall deal out punishment to all the gods of Egypt, I am the Lord. The blood shall serve to mark the houses that you live in. When I see the blood I will pass over you and you shall escape the destroying plague when I strike the land of Egypt. This day is to be a day of remembrance for you, and you must celebrate it as a feast in the Lord’s honour. For all generations you are to declare it a day of festival, for ever.” ’

The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115:12-13, 15-18. cf. 1 Cor 10:16

℟. The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ

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|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | How can I repay the Lord<br>for his goodness to me?<br>The cup of salvation I will raise;<br>I will call on the Lord’s name. ℟.                 | 3 | A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:<br>I will call on the Lord’s name.<br>My vows to the Lord I will fulfil<br>before all his people. ℟. |
| 2 | O precious in the eyes of the Lord<br>is the death of his faithful.<br>Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;<br>you have loosened my bonds. ℟. |   |   |

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

*Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the death of the Lord.*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.' In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.' Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

Jn 11:25. 26

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another just as I have loved you, says the Lord.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

## Gospel

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The Gospel of the Lord.