

# **Eucharist for Maundy Thursday**

## **9<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Celebrant and Preacher:** The Revd Canon Dr Malcolm Grundy

### **Organ music before the service**

Le banquet celeste      *Olivier Messiaen (1908-92)*

Welcome to our service for Maundy Thursday. As this Holy Week continues, I want to invite as many of you as possible to join in prayer with myself and others. On this most unusual Maundy Thursday we share together in a communion service and remember the Last Supper which Jesus shared with his disciples. Although dispersed we remain one worshipping community.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you  
**and also with you.**

### **The Prayers of Penitence**

Our Lord Jesus Christ says: 'If you love me, keep my commandments.'  
'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.' Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love, and ask him to cleanse us.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving-kindness: and in your great compassion blot out our offences. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Against you only have we sinned: and done what is evil in your sight. Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Purge us from our sin and we shall be pure: wash us and we shall be clean indeed. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

The Lord, who is faithful and just forgive us our sins create and make in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us through Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

### **Collect**

Let us pray.

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.**

**Old Testament reading:** Exodus 12.1-14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup> This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup> You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup> You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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 judgments: I am the Lord. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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.

For the gift of his holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament reading:** 1 Corinthians 11.23-26

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

Beloved: <sup>23</sup> 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, <sup>24</sup> 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." <sup>25</sup> 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." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

For the gift of his holy word.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:** John 13.1-17, 31b-35

Hear the holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> The devil had already put it into the

heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup> got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> 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." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup> 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? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. <sup>31</sup> Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> 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.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

It seems to me that on this Maundy Thursday there are some things that we must remember, some things that we should remember and a few things that we might or might not like to remember.

We might or might not like to remember shared meals – just as the Last Supper was a meal which Jesus shared with his disciples. I can remember some momentous dinner parties, in the 1970's and 80's when such things were fashionable. I can remember some enormous party meals which - Wendy mostly - and I put on for deanery clergy and their families so that they could get to know one-another.

And I can remember similar ones as a child when what seemed like very elderly relatives came to stay and enjoy generous meals together - and how on more than one occasion our budgie landed on my uncle's bald head! After the meal what they really enjoyed, was sitting around an enormous table with all the leaves out, playing cards for pennies using two packs in a game called Queens. Perhaps there are some things I should not remember?

I can also remember being told many times of the popular TV film clip which used to be shown every year in Germany. It was of an old lady alone setting Christmas Dinner places for her deceased or absent family and how compelling this was to all who watched because she then sat down and ate alone. But was she really alone?

What we should remember to do is take to heart the serious things in today's bible readings. This Last Supper meal was seen – especially by St John whose account we are following all week - as a Passover Supper where resonances of past deliverances were remembered. God's protection and promises were made real in symbolic parts of an annually repeated meal. Jane, our last vicar helped us to remember that there was enormous symbolism in the components of that meal.

We must remember that after Jesus had left them the bread and the wine became almost immediately the symbols of the continuing presence of Christ with them. It is how they knew that they were not alone. We have just heard how it was the central and most important community tradition passed on to St Paul.

In this exceptional year what we absolutely must remember is why this Maundy Thursday has its name. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, or commandment, reflecting Jesus' words, 'A new commandment I give to you – that you love one-another as I have loved you'.

We must remember also that before the meal Jesus showed servant love by washing the disciples' feet. In our eventful Church life, I can remember the grace-filled time Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip came to our Bradford Cathedral to distribute the Royal Maundy. This traditional annual ceremony reminds the monarch and us that true leaders are to be the servants of all.

In these days of great distress there is no better time to hear about the astonishing acts of service and self-sacrifice being given by so many to others. This 'new commandment' comes to life when we remember with thanksgiving a very special shared meal: when we remember that isolated now as we may be – we are never alone. Amen.

### **Organ music during the lighting of candles & time of personal reflection**

Christe, du Lamm Gottes

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

### **Intercessions**

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 their message.  
We pray for the mission of your Church.

**Lord, hear us and renew our zeal.**

On this night, he commanded them 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 them 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 Peace**

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your  
hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

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 thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to give you thanks,  
it is indeed right to give you thanks,  
Father most holy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
For on this night he girded himself with a towel  
And, taking the form of a servant,  
washed the feet of his disciples.

He gave us a new commandment  
that we should love one another as he has loved us.

Knowing that his hour had come,  
in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples  
to be a memorial of his passion,  
that we might proclaim his death until he comes again,  
and feast with him in his kingdom.

Therefore earth unites with heaven  
to sing a new song of praise;  
we too join with angels and archangels  
as they proclaim your glory without end:

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

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed, that is, this very night,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.  
Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**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 Breaking of the Bread**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*If you have their own bread you are invited to break and share it as a gesture of fellowship and agape.*

## **The Invitation to Communion**

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

## **The Communion**

*The priest receives the bread and wine on behalf of all.*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

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. **Amen.**

## **Psalm 22**

- 1 My God, my God, look upon me; why hast thou forsaken me :  
and art so far from my health, and from the words of my complaint?
- 2 O my God, I cry in the day-time, but thou hearest not :  
and in the night-season also I take no rest.
- 3 And thou continuest holy : O thou worship of Israel.

4 Our fathers hoped in thee :  
 they trusted in thee, and thou didst deliver them.  
 5 They called upon thee, and were holpen :  
 they put their trust in thee, and were not confounded.  
 6 But as for me, I am a worm, and no man :  
 a very scorn of men, and the outcast of the people.  
 7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn :  
 they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying,  
 8 He trusted in God, that he would deliver him :  
 let him deliver him, if he will have him.  
 9 But thou art he that took me out of my mother's womb :  
 thou wast my hope, when I hanged yet upon my mother's breasts.  
 10 I have been left unto thee ever since I was born:  
 thou art my God, even from my mother's womb.  
 11 O go not from me, for trouble is hard at hand :  
 and there is none to help me.  
 12 Many oxen are come about me :  
 fat bulls of Basan close me in on every side.  
 13 They gape upon me with their mouths :  
 as it were a ramping and a roaring lion.  
 14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint :  
 my heart also in the midst of my body is even like melting wax.  
 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaveth to my  
 gums :  
 and thou shalt bring me into the dust of death.  
 16 For many dogs are come about me :  
 and the council of the wicked layeth siege against me.  
 17 They pierced my hands and my feet; I may tell all my bones :  
 they stand staring and looking upon me.  
 18 They part my garments among them :  
 and cast lots upon my vesture.  
 19 But be not thou far from me, O Lord :  
 thou art my succour, haste thee to help me.  
 20 Deliver my soul from the sword : my darling from the power of the dog.  
 21 Save me from the lion's mouth :  
 thou hast heard me also from among the horns of the unicorns.  
 22 I will declare thy Name unto my brethren :  
 in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.  
 23 O praise the Lord, ye that fear him :  
 magnify him, all ye of the seed of Jacob, and fear him, all ye seed of  
 Israel;  
 24 For he hath not despised, nor abhorred, the low estate of the poor :  
 he hath not hid his face from him, but when he called unto him he heard  
 him.  
 25 My praise is of thee in the great congregation :  
 my vows will I perform in the sight of them that fear him.  
 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied :  
 they that seek after the Lord shall praise him; your heart shall live for  
 ever.

- 27 All the ends of the world shall remember themselves, and be turned  
unto the Lord :  
and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before him.
- 28 For the kingdom is the Lord's :  
and he is the Governor among the people.
- 29 All such as be fat upon earth : have eaten and worshipped.
- 30 All they that go down into the dust shall kneel before him :  
and no man hath quickened his own soul.
- 31 My seed shall serve him :  
they shall be counted unto the Lord for a generation.
- 32 They shall come, and the heavens shall declare his righteousness :  
unto a people that shall be born, whom the Lord hath made.

### **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.

The service ends in silence

Our thanks to Churchwarden Ben Pugh for making this broadcast possible.