

## **MAUNDY THURSDAYSERVICE THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2022**

### **THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

Tonight, we begin the Great Three Days of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection, the journey from the supper table to the cross, from the cross to Easter dawn. We are followers in his way, exploring his truth, encountering his life.

This is the night when Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would betray him.

This is the night when Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

This is the night when Christ our Lord gave us this holy feast, that as we break the bread and drink the cup we may here proclaim his holy sacrifice, and come at the last to his table in heaven.

This is the night when Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, showing us how to honour and serve one another in love.

This is the night for watching and prayer.

We give ourselves freely to the demands of these great days, confident that those who die in Christ will surely live with him.

### **HYMN: TIS 536**

#### **Sentence**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast.

### **PRAYER OF INVITATION**

Holy One, in the stillness of this hour, be with us.

As we walk with Jesus in the garden, let us feel his anguish.

Hold us close even as you held close your beloved son, that we, too, may feel your presence, calming and comforting in the midst of distress.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER of THE DAY**

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal

Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them:

write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others

as he was the servant of all, who gave his life and died for us,

yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **THE CONFESSION**

On this night of all nights as we remember Jesus' love and the betrayal of his friends

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

Eternal God,

whose covenant with us is never broken:

we confess that we have failed to fulfil your will for us.

We betray our neighbours, desert our friends, and run-in fear when we should be loyal.

Though you have bound yourself to us, we have not bound ourselves to you.

God, have mercy on us weak and wilful people.

Lead us once again to your table, and unite us to Christ,

who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace. To Christ be praise forever. Amen.

## ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who loved us to the end and died to set us free: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Acts 3.11-26

<sup>11</sup> While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he said to them: 'Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. <sup>14</sup> You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. <sup>15</sup> You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup> By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see. <sup>17</sup> 'Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. <sup>18</sup> But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, <sup>20</sup> and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus. <sup>21</sup> Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. <sup>22</sup> For Moses said, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people." <sup>24</sup> 'Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. <sup>25</sup> And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, "Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed." <sup>26</sup> When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.'

### Psalm 8

<sup>1</sup> O Lord our Governor: how glorious is your name in all the earth!

<sup>2</sup> Your majesty above the heavens is yet recounted:  
by the mouths of babes and sucklings.

<sup>3</sup> You have founded a strong defence against your adversaries:  
to quell the enemy and the avenger.

<sup>4</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers:  
the moon and the stars which you have set in order,

<sup>5</sup> What are we, that you should be mindful of us:  
what are we, that you should care for us?

<sup>6</sup> Yet you have made us little less than gods:  
and have crowned us with glory and honour.

<sup>7</sup> You have given us dominion over your handiwork:  
and have put all things in subjection beneath our feet,

<sup>8</sup> All sheep and oxen: and all the creatures of the field,

<sup>9</sup> The birds of the air and the fish of the sea: and everything that moves  
in the pathways of the great waters.

<sup>10</sup> O Lord our Governor: how glorious is your name in all the earth!

## 1 Corinthians 11.23-26

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

<sup>25</sup>In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

<sup>26</sup>For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**HYMN: TIS 640**

## John 13.1-17, 31b-35

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave 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 evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup>so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel round his waist. <sup>5</sup>After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round 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 replied, 'You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand.'

<sup>8</sup>'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.'

Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'

<sup>9</sup>'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!'

<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered, 'Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.' <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

<sup>33</sup>'My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: where I am going, you cannot come.

<sup>34</sup>'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.'

## *A MEDITATION*

### **THE WASHING OF FEET**

Beloved in Christ, we have heard that, on the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service.

I therefore invite you, who share in the royal priesthood of Christ, to come forward, that we may recall whose servants we are, remembering his teaching that what will be done for us is also to be done for others.

I invite you to go to one of the places set around you.

*Those who wish to participate may have either a foot or a hand washed by moving to one of the stations at either the front or rear of the church.*

*Please take the time to be meditative while others are having their feet washed.*

*Reflective music will be played during the foot washing.*

## THE INTERCESSIONS

Merciful God, 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 teach us humility.**

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, Jesus loved his friends to the very end.

As we open our hearts to all who face darkness tonight,

we pray for the sick, those who mourn,

those trapped by violence, addiction or pain;

give healing and hope.

Lord, hear us **and fill us with your hope.**

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.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

Reconciled by his love, let us offer one another signs of peace and reconciliation.

"Love one another as I have loved you." The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Hymn 511

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

He offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. When his hour had come, in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples, that we might proclaim his death, and feast with him in his kingdom. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

He offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. When his hour had come, in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples, that we might proclaim his death, and feast with him in his kingdom.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**We remember his death on the cross. We proclaim the resurrection to new life. We await Christ's coming in glory**

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave thanks.

He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, 'Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He shared the cup with them and said, 'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.**

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us:

Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made.

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

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

### THE COMMUNION

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit.

**If we have died with him, we shall live with him.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.  
This is God's table. All are welcome here.

Body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

Blood of Christ keep you in eternal life

#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Holy God, source of all love, on this night of betrayal  
Jesus commanded his disciples  
to love one another as he loved them.  
We thank you for feeding us in this supper.  
Give us the will to serve others as he was servant of all.

#### **HYMN: TIS 513**

#### **BLESSING**

Almighty God, who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ,  
and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom,  
give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your eternal inheritance;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

#### **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

*We silently remove banners, linen, decorations,  
all but one candle and lights are dimmed,  
while Psalm 22 is read.*

*You may sit or kneel to pray and reflect.  
You may be given something to take into the vestry.  
You may then either return to your seat or depart, when you wish,  
in reverent silence.*

## Psalm 22

- <sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from saving me,  
so far from my cries of anguish?
- <sup>2</sup> My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,  
by night, but I find no rest.
- <sup>3</sup> Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;  
you are the one Israel praises.
- <sup>4</sup> In you our ancestors put their trust;  
they trusted and you delivered them.
- <sup>5</sup> To you they cried out and were saved;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
- <sup>6</sup> But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.
- <sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me;  
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.
- <sup>8</sup> 'He trusts in the LORD,' they say,  
'let the LORD rescue him.  
Let him deliver him,  
since he delights in him.'
- <sup>9</sup> Yet you brought me out of the womb;  
you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.
- <sup>10</sup> From birth I was cast on you;  
from my mother's womb you have been my God.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me,  
for trouble is near  
and there is no one to help.
- <sup>12</sup> Many bulls surround me;  
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.
- <sup>13</sup> Roaring lions that tear their prey  
open their mouths wide against me.
- <sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint.  
My heart has turned to wax;  
it has melted within me.
- <sup>15</sup> My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
you lay me in the dust of death.
- <sup>16</sup> Dogs surround me,  
a pack of villains encircles me;

they pierce my hands and my feet.  
<sup>17</sup> All my bones are on display;  
people stare and gloat over me.  
<sup>18</sup> They divide my clothes among them  
and cast lots for my garment.  
<sup>19</sup> But you, LORD, do not be far from me.  
You are my strength; come quickly to help me.  
<sup>20</sup> Deliver me from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dogs.  
<sup>21</sup> Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;  
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.  
<sup>22</sup> I will declare your name to my people;  
in the assembly I will praise you.  
<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise him!  
All you descendants of Jacob, honour him!  
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!  
<sup>24</sup> For he has not despised or scorned  
the suffering of the afflicted one;  
he has not hidden his face from him  
but has listened to his cry for help.  
<sup>25</sup> From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;  
before those who fear you I will fulfil my vows.  
<sup>26</sup> The poor will eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek the LORD will praise him –  
may your hearts live for ever!  
<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth  
will remember and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations  
will bow down before him,  
<sup>28</sup> for dominion belongs to the LORD  
and he rules over the nations.  
<sup>29</sup> All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;  
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him –  
those who cannot keep themselves alive.  
<sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord.  
<sup>31</sup> They will proclaim his righteousness,  
declaring to a people yet unborn:  
He has done it!





I'm not some baby needing washed by an adult.  
 I'm not a toddler, held squirming over the water when I'd rather be running off outside.  
 I'm not an invalid, unable to wash my own feet, relying on the nursing of others.

I'm not an old man, being looked after by my daughter.  
 I'm a grown man, Jesus.

I'm no older than you.

Why would you do such a thing?

What are you trying to teach me?

Are you teaching me how to receive?

Is that it?

Is this a lesson in humility?

You know that I'd rather be in control, not submitting this way.

It is so menial, this job you are doing.

I don't like the feeling of being reliant on someone else.

Not at all.

I like to be in control, thank you very much.

Is this what you are trying to teach me?

Or is it something else?

Is it about hospitality, learning to serve?

Is this what I need to learn?

But I'm a man!

It is not my job to serve, to offer hospitality.

That's a job for the women, the servants.

Not a man's job!

Is this what you want us to do?

Well let me tell you now, it will never happen.

Men serving?

Men kneeling at the feet of other men, washing feet?

Yet here you are...

Here you are doing exactly that.

You, my Lord and Master, my friend and brother, kneeling right here.

Oh my goodness, I just don't know what to make of this, dear Jesus.

I am so confused.

Are we to serve too?

Are we to do this to others?

don't know if I can...

if you can, then I must.

As you wash my feet, I wonder who else you will do this to.

Will you do it to everyone, each one of us?

Surely not just me, Lord.

Will you do it to Judas?

Will you?

Are we to reach out to everyone?

To wash the feet of all?

The homeless?

The addict?

The diseased?



You know, I  
 But



The weak and the hungry?  
Those different from us?  
Those from a different country?  
Those from a different faith?  
Surely not them?



And I look at your feet,  
your vulnerable feet.  
And I look at your hand,  
resting so assuredly there.  
And then I see your eyes,  
reflected in the water of the bowl.  
And our eyes meet.  
You look sad, Jesus.  
Are you sad with me?  
Sad that I haven't understood yet?  
Are you sad with all of us?  
That we haven't done what you expected?  
That we're not ready yet?  
Lord, I'm trying.



I'm really trying to understand.  
Give me time and I'll get it.  
I know I will.

Just let me get my head round this awesome thing you are asking of me.  
Of us.

None of us are ready, Lord.  
But I'll try.



I know the bread and wine is waiting.  
It lies there on the table, waiting.  
But I know that we cannot share it until this is done.  
That much I do know.

That much I understand now.  
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, let me serve you as you have served me.

*Now please just enter into the meditation:*



Relax.  
Be comfortable.  
Close your eyes.  
Breathe in.  
Hold.  
Breathe out.  
Breathe in.  
Hold.  
Breathe out.  
Be still.

Let go of all the distractions.

Let your worries fly away.

Breathe in.

Hold.

Breathe out.

Breathe in.

Hold.

Breathe out.

Imagine . . .

You are in a very simple room.

Sitting at a table with food and friends.

Jesus is there.

Peter, John, and all the other Apostles are there, too.

You are remembering the Passover together.

You are nervous about what will happen to Jesus during this festival.

Sit back and look around the table.

How does it feel to be with friends, feeling these mixed emotions.

Notice Jesus getting up.

He takes his cloak off,

ties a towel around his waist.

He fills a bowl with water.

He walks over to Peter and kneels down.

Watch Peter's face and the interaction between the two of them as Jesus washes Peter's feet.

What seems to be happening?

What are you hearing?

How do you think Peter feels?

The next thing you know Jesus is picking up the bowl.

Follow him with your eyes, moving around the table.

He is coming towards you.

He kneels down.

Looks into your eyes.

Reaches for your foot.

Spend some time interacting with Jesus while he washes your feet.

Jesus stands up in front of you.

He moves to the person sitting next to you.

You are left there, in your seat, with your thoughts from your personal encounter with Jesus.

Name them.

How are you feeling.

Jesus finishes with the last person at the table.

He throws out the water.

Unties the towel.

Puts on his cloak.

Sits down at the table.

He takes some time to look around the expressions of those who are there.

What is the mood of the group?

Jesus looks around at all of you.

He says: "Do you understand what I just did for you?"



You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Lord,'  
and fittingly enough, for that is what I am.  
But if I washed your feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—  
then you must wash each other's feet.  
As I have done, so you must do."  
Just relax and think about what Jesus' words mean for you.  
It is time to come back to this space.  
Just continue to sit there.  
Gently roll your ankles.  
Wiggle your fingers.  
Shrug your shoulders.  
Open your eyes.  
Allow yourself time just to come back slowly.  
Sit up, stretch.  
Slowly.