

MAUNDY THURSDAY 2021

St. Matthew's, National City
St. Mark's, City Heights
St. Andrew's, Pacific Beach

Join online at 6 p.m.

tinyurl.com/stmarkszoom



INTRODUCTION

When Jesus shared Passover with his disciples, it was in the home tradition and setting of the Passover meal. The washing of feet, the sharing of bread and wine, and the new commandment to love one another all happened in a home, in a room where Jesus drew his friends together as host, teacher, friend, and master who was there to serve them all. Maundy Thursday may be considered, at its heart, a homely affair. During this pandemic that requires physical distancing to stop the spread of COVID-19, we stay in our homes as our base-point. But we have the blessing in this technological age of joining others in fellowship even when we are alone in our households. We join each other now, on this holy night, as we pray, sing, and hear the word of God while we eat together, each in our own homes but joined in fellowship.

This service weaves together parts of the Maundy Thursday liturgy within the frame of the Agape Meal. It includes washing of feet or hands, in households where there are two or more people. It also includes the reading of the institution of the Lord's Supper from the Gospel according to John, with responses in prayer from the Didache, and with bread and wine as part of the simple meatless meal in each home.

PREPARE FOR THE SERVICE

Please do what you can of the following:

1. Prepare a simple meatless meal. Include a bit of bread and wine or juice, according to what is in keeping with your dietary requirements.
2. Set your space for your meal, with a laptop, tablet, cell phone, or internet-connected screen in the room where it can be visible to everyone during the meal.
3. Make sure your device is connected to the internet.
4. If there is more than one person in your household, set up what you need to wash each other's feet OR hands. For feet, a wash basin, a pitcher with warm water, and a few towels are sufficient. Set a foot-washing space in the room, just a bit away from the table. For hands, a medium-sized bowl with warm water and soap and a small towel will work and could be set up on or near the table.
5. Set your table with your meal. If you wish, you may light a couple of candles.
6. Be prepared to clear your table completely at the conclusion of the service.
7. At 6 o'clock, join the Zoom call for the beginning of this Maundy Thursday and Agape Meal liturgy. Then take your places at your table to partake in the meal and to participate as you are able in hearing of the Word, washing of one another's feet or hands, the remembering of Jesus Christ's sharing of himself in the first Holy Eucharist, and readying ourselves to follow Jesus to the Cross.
8. Participate by saying the parts in bold.

Gathering Song (*O Gracious Light - St. Mark's recording*)

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone.
Immortal, holy blest is he, and blest are you, his holy Son.

Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, Lifegiving Lord;
Wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

Opening Salutation (Mother Hannah)

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
His mercy endures for ever.

The Collect of the Day (Father Colin)

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, gave freely of himself to his beloved in the washing of feet and in instituting the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that as we gather in our households we may remember these great gifts of love by Jesus Christ our Lord, and follow his great command to love one another as he eternally loves us all; who has given himself for the whole world, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Blessing Over the Food (Father Richard)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated, and let us begin our Agape Meal together.

SHARING THE AGAPE MEAL

People are seated at their tables, begin to serve each other, and begin to eat. Music offered by Heather Lawrence during dinner.

"Your Love Is Strong"

Heavenly Father
You always amaze me
Let Your kingdom come in my world
And in my life

Give me the food I need to live through today
And forgive me as I forgive the people that wrong me

Lead me far from temptation
Deliver me from the evil one

I look out the window
The birds are composing
Not a note is out of tune
Or out of place

I walk to the meadow
And stare at the flowers
Better dressed than any bride
On her wedding day

So why should I worry?
Why do I freak out?
God knows what I need!
You know what I need!

Your love is strong

The Kingdom of the Heavens
Is now advancing
Invade my heart
Invade this broken town

The Kingdom of the Heavens
Is buried treasure
Would you sell yourself
To buy the one you've found?

Two things You told me
That You are strong
And You love me,
Yes You love me

Your love is strong

Our God in heaven
Hallowed be thy name above all names
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us, today, our daily bread
Forgive us weary sinners
Keep us far from our vices and
Deliver us from these prisons

THE SETTING AND CONTEXT: REMEMBERING THE PASSOVER

[St. Andrew's Reader - Helen Davies] **The Hebrew Scripture** - Exodus 12:1-14a
The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 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. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month;

then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. 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. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 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. 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. 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. 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.

[St. Mark's Reader - Shan McDonald]: **Psalm 116:1, 10-17**

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

How shall I repay the Lord *

for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation *

and call upon the Name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *

in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord *

is the death of his servants.

O Lord, I am your servant; *

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;

you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *

and call upon the Name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *

in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the Lord's house, *

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

REMEMBERING THE GIFT OF THE EUCHARIST

[St. Matthew's Reader]: **I Corinthians 11:23-24**

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, 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."

[St. Matthew's Reader] **Prayer of thanksgiving for Bread**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth. We thank you, O our Father, for the life and knowledge which you make known to us through your Son Jesus. On this night we remember his giving of himself to us as the bread of life and cup of salvation. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. **Amen.**

[St. Matthew's Reader]: **I Corinthians 11:25-26**

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." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

[St. Andrew's Reader: Tim Shields] **Prayer of thanksgiving for the fruit of the vine**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; We thank you, O our Father, for the holy vine of David which you have made known to us through your Son Jesus. Glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

If you would like, please continue eating through the song.

Ubi Caritas

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.

REMEMBERING THE FOOTWASHING, AND THE COMMANDMENT TO LOVE WITH HUMILITY

[Father Richard] **John 13:1-17, 31b-35**: 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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 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." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

[Father Colin]: 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? You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed

your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

[Mother Hannah]: "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

People in their homes move back from their tables to wash each other's feet, or wash each other's hands at the table.

Songs During Handwashing:

"Little Things With Great Love"

In the garden of our Savior, no flower grows unseen;
His kindness rains like water on every humble seed.
No simple act of mercy escapes His watchful eye —
for there is One who loves me: His hand is over mine.

In the kingdom of the heavens, no suff'ring is unknown;
each tear that falls is holy, each breaking heart a throne.
There is a song of beauty on ev'ry weeping eye —
for there is One who loves me: His heart, it breaks with mine.

Oh, the deeds forgotten; oh, the works unseen,
every drink of water flowing graciously,
every tender mercy, You're making glorious.
This You have asked us: do little things with great love,
little things with great love.

At the table of our Savior, no mouth will go unfed;
His children in the shadows stream in and raise their heads.
Oh give us ears to hear them and give us eyes that see —
for there is One who loves them: I am His hands and feet.

from Work Songs, released October 6, 2017
By Audrey Assad, Isaac Wardell, and Madison Cunningham
"By Our Love"

Brothers, let us come together
Walking in the Spirit, there's much to be done...
We will come reaching, out from our comforts
And they will know us by our love...

Sisters, we were made for kindness
We can pierce the darkness as Christ shines through us...
We will come reaching, with a song of healing...
And they will know us by our love!

The time is now
Come Church arise...
Love with His hands
See with His eyes...
Bind it around you,
Let it never leave you,
And they will know us by our love...

Children, You are hope for justice,
Stand firm in the Truth now, set your hearts above
You will be reaching, long after we're gone,
And they will know you by your love!

Lyrics and music by Christy Nockels

Spoken anthem offered toward the end of the washing:

[Father Colin] The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, "Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done."

[St. Mark's Reader: Kathleen Ide]: **Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

[Father Richard]: I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

[St. Mark's Reader: Kathleen Ide]: **Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

[Mother Hannah]: By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD AND THE CHURCH

[St. Mark's Reader: Debbie Kistler]: Lord God, you are both host and servant at this meal and in our lives. Teach us, we pray, to follow your example of love, hospitality and service. In your mercy, Lord,
hear our prayer.

We pray for your church, broken in many ways. We wait on your guidance and nourishment for our lives, for encouragement and strength for your mission. In your mercy, Lord,
hear our prayer.

We pray for our leaders, responsible for shaping our common life, that they may lead us in ways of justice and peace. In your mercy, Lord,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who struggle to find food and shelter tonight, who hunger for peace, who ache for warmth and friendship. Heal broken hearts and spirits. Envelop the sick with your healing embrace. We pray for those who know the pain of betrayal, and for those who face death today. In your mercy, Lord,
hear our prayer.

We leave this place singing hymns of love. Embed them in our lives that we may teach others to sing. We follow you into the garden, into the unknown, teach us to trust the lessons of this night. In your mercy, Lord,
hear our prayer.

REMEMBERING THE BETRAYAL OF OUR LORD

All present are invited to mute their microphones except one St. Matthew's reader as we join in the confession.

Call to Confession

[Mother Hannah] As Jesus prepares his body to be broken on our behalf, let us confess to the ways that we have betrayed him in word and deed.

Prayer of Confession

[St. Matthew's Reader] God of Self-Giving Love, we thank you because you have heard our voice and listened to our supplications. Yet we confess that we often express our gratitude in word only; Too often, our thankfulness is not expressed in faithful actions. Forgive us for the moments when we've betrayed you:
for the times we've turned our backs on the poor... *(pause)*
for the times we've shunned those who scare us ... *(pause)*

for the times we've included only those who look and act like us... *(pause)*
for the times we've forgotten our call as hopeful disciples... *(pause)*
Forgive us for all the moments when we've betrayed you. Gracious Lord, you are headed to the cross. Help us to take up our cross and love one another as you have first loved us.
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

[Mother Hannah] Just as the blood of a lamb protected the Israelites from death, so too does Jesus' death and resurrection protect us from death's grasp. Friends, in the name of Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that our sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

The Peace

Led by Father Richard *(bidding peace to one another online and in households)*

Clearing of Tables

Invitation to clearing and brief explanation offered by Father Colin.

People clear their tables completely, in silence. At this time, the altar in the church would also be cleared and cleaned. After some minutes in silence, during the cleaning, Thomas Tallis' "If Ye Love Me" plays. People regather, standing at their tables, view images of the cross and one by one close their internet connection in silence. The host closes the site last.

+ Optional Maundy Thursday Activity: Stripping of the Table +

INTRODUCTION: The Triduum, or Three Days, is the time from the evening of Maundy Thursday through the evening of Easter Sunday. The services of the Triduum are really one great liturgy, stretched over three days. The focus on Thursday is commemorating the Last Supper and sharing the loving servanthood of Jesus through the washing of feet and institution of the Holy Supper. Instead of gathering in person, we gather as the church in our own homes. We cannot celebrate the Eucharist together. Instead we feast on God's Word and look forward to the day when we will come together to share the holy meal. Yet there are gifts to be found even in this time of separation. One of them is the opportunity to rediscover how richly we can worship through household practices. The Triduum is not just a dramatic reenactment of something that happened long ago. Rather, in these liturgies, we encounter God here and now, working in our lives today. Stripping of the altar/table (removing all ornaments, linens, candles, plants, flowers, etc.) is an ancient custom. Christians mark the way Christ's life was stripped from him by stripping the altar of all signs of life and beauty during this special service. This bare space reminds us of the bareness of life without the hope of Christ. Our homes and tables are also sacred spaces where we can practice this ancient custom.

Suggested materials: *Storage box or bin, dark cloth, cleaning supplies.*

Read this portion of Psalm 22 together:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

- Explain to your family or yourself if you are alone the ancient custom of stripping and washing the altar, what it symbolizes, and how your family (or you) will now do a similar stripping in your home – focusing on icons and symbols of your faith. Send your family through the house to gather all icons and religious symbols that can be easily moved (crosses, statues, candles, prayer beads, etc.). You can also cover items of significance such as televisions, artwork, etc. Ask everyone to work silently as a sign of respect. Pack items away in the storage bins.
- Use the dark cloth (or towel, sheet, Tshirt, etc.) to drape any other items that are too large or permanent to pack away (wall art, door wreaths, Easter Tree and so forth.)
- Finally, remove all items from your dining or kitchen table and together wash the table thoroughly. Leave the table (and home) bare and items covered until Easter morning.
- After all the icons have been packed away or covered, and the table has been washed, take a moment to notice how your home looks and feels. Make the connection between a home without these beautiful and meaningful items and a life without Christ.
- Saturday night, after the Easter Vigil, unpack and uncover all of the religious items, so that when the family wakes up on Easter morning there will be more than just Easter baskets to celebrate!

The Three Days, Triduum, continue tomorrow with the service for Good Friday.