Maundy Thursday

April 9, 2020

The Triduum, a period of three days, begins sundown on Maundy Thursday and extends until sunrise Sunday. The Maundy Thursday liturgy is a celebration of the supper Jesus ate with his friends the night before he was crucified. According to the Gospel of John, on the same night Jesus ate bread and drank wine with the apostles, he washed their feet. This was, for Jesus, a sign of his servanthood. To be a full minister in Christ is to be a servant leader. Through this ritual we learn that serving others and being served by others are central to Christian discipleship. The Maundy Thursday service ends with the stripping of the altar. This solemn ritual invites us into Jesus’ experience of emptiness and loneliness. “Maundy” is derived from the latin “mandatum,” meaning commandment. Jesus commanded the disciples to love one another.

“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.” John 13:34-35

During the Maundy Thursday liturgy you are invited to participate in the sacramental act of footwashing. If you choose to participate, you are invited to set up a small home altar space perhaps on a table, shelf, or other designated area. You may try placing a scarf or small tablecloth on it, adding a candle to remind you of Christ’s Presence, possibly an icon or devotional book, flower, whatever seems to create a beautiful, sacred and loving space for the Tridium services & Easter. For the Maundy Thursday service you will need a washcloth, towel (for drying), and a large bowl filled with warm water. After the footwashing you are invited to strip your home altar of any decoration, linens, and/or candles.

The liturgy for Maundy Thursday can be found on page 274 in the Book of Common Prayer.

When possible, have one person read the sentences designated “One” and all others respond with sentences designated “All”

One: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

All: His mercy endures for ever.

One: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Kyrie

One  Lord, have mercy upon us.

All  Christ, have mercy upon us.

One  Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day, Said by all

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14  Read aloud by one

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.
Lector: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Read aloud by one

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.” 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel John 13:1-17, 31b-35 Read aloud by one

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.” 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. “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.” Lector: The Word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God.

**Meditation** If one or all would like to share a reflection on the readings, you are invited to do so at this time.

**Footwashing**

At this time you are invited to wash your own feet or those of people around you as Jesus did for his disciples the night before he was betrayed. This sacramental act is an outward sign of love and service to those around you. The service will continue with the Peace and Stripping of the Altar.

**The Peace**

*One:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All:* And also with you.

The Stripping of the Altar During the reading of Psalm 22, please strip your sacred space of any linens, candles, or other decorations and turn out any light. This is to symbolize the preparation of the tomb in which Christ will be laid. At the end of the Psalm, please observe a moment of silence in the dark. This is the conclusion of the service. You may keep watch (vigil) through the night or at any point until the observance of the Good Friday liturgy. Please do so by returning to your altar in prayer.

**Psalm 22**

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *

and are so far from my cry

and from the words of my distress? 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *

by night as well, but I find no rest. 3 Yet you are the Holy One, *

enthroned upon the praises of Israel. 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; *

they trusted, and you delivered them. 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; *

they trusted in you and were not put to shame. 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *

scorned by all and despised by the people. 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *

they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying, 8 “He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; *

let him rescue him, if he delights in him.” 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *

and kept me safe upon my mother's breast. 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.

11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help. 12 Many young bulls encircle me; *
strong bulls of Bashan surround me. 13 They open wide their jaws at me, *
like a ravening and a roaring lion. 14 I am poured out like water;
all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax. 15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-asher;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave. 16 Packs of dogs close me in,
and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones. 17 They stare and gloat over me; *
they divide my garments among them;
they cast lots for my clothing. 18 Be not far away, O Lord; *
you are my strength; hasten to help me. 19 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever. 20 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.