**Maundy Thursday**

**Seeking God’s Will - Discernment**

**Opening Prayer**

Jesus calls us to love one another with the same all-encompassing love that he shows for us. Let us reflect on the nature of that love and ask that it may grow in us.

God whose name is love,

send your Holy Spirit

to fill the hearts of your people

with love that has the strength

to walk alongside the needy

and to support one another

on the journey of life,

wherever it leads.

In Jesus name,

**Amen**.

**Confession**

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

‘If you love me, keep my commandments.’

‘Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.’

‘Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love,

and ask him to cleanse us.

Silence is kept.

Have mercy on us, O God,

in your great goodness;

according to the abundance of your 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 clean;

wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father forgive us

by the death of his Son

and strengthen us

to live in the power of the Spirit

all ourdays.

**Amen.**

**Bible Reading: 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.

**2**The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. **3**Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;**4**so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. **5**After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

**6**He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

**7**Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

**8**“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

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

**9**“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

**10**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.” **11**For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

**12**When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. **13**“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. **14**Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. **15**I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. **16**Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17**Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

### **Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial**

**31**When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. **32**If God is glorified in him,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13%3A1-17%2CJohn+13%3A31-35&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26663a)] God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

**33**“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.

**34**“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35**By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

**Reflection** *by Liz*

The set readings for today, what is known as Maundy Thursday, includes reference to the Passover (Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14) the Last Supper (John 13:1-17 31b-35) and our continued remembrance of what Christ did for us by on the Cross.

We would normally gather this evening for this act of remembrance. In addition, we would remember the most menial task that Jesus undertook the washing of feet, of his disciples, which undertook to set an example to us of how we live our lives.

In the book *Joy, the meaning of the Sacraments* Peter Waddell helps us in understanding what the taking of bread and wine means.

He reminds us that at the heart of Jesus ministry was his pouring himself out so that others may live. To receive communion is to be brought within the power of this sacrifice, have our own lives filled with the joy of Jesus and to be made progressively like him. In the end we are to be nothing but love. At the end of the Communion service we are sent out to be a “living sacrifice”. It is not an act to be viewed from a distance but a way of drawing us into himself.

We can share in this act of sacrifice with others online (Church of England website etc) or through TV worship services in the form of an act of spiritual communion. We can still use the words of the liturgy to help us draw closer to God even if we are not able to physically take in the bread and wine.

So, let us draw close to God, to be His love in the world and be a living sacrifice. Take time to seek His will and discern who He wants us to be and to what He wants us to do at this time.

**Washing of feet**

*God is love, and where true love is, God himself is there.*

Here in Christ we gather, love of Christ our calling;

Christ, our love, is with us, gladness be his greeting;

let us all revere and love him, God eternal.

Loving him, let each love Christ in all his brothers.

*God is love,…*

When we Christians gather, members of one Body,

let there be in us no discord, but one spirit;

banished now be anger, strife and every quarrel.

Christ our God be present always here among us.

*God is love,…*

Grant us love’s fulfilment, joy with all the blessed

when we see your face, O Saviour, in its glory;

shine on us, O purest Light of all creation,

be our bliss while endless ages sing your praises.

*God is love,…*

*James Quinn SJ*

*As Jesus washed his disciples feet, you may wish to wash yours….*

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have taught us

that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters

we do also for you:

give us the will to be the servant of others

as you were the servant of all,

and gave up your life and died for us,

but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession for Maundy Thursday**

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 his disciples’ message.

We pray for the mission of your Church.

Lord, hear us

 **and renew our zeal.**

On this night, he commanded his disciples 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 his disciples

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.**

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

*All* **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.**

 **Lead us not into temptation;**

 **but deliver us from evil.**

 **For the kingdom, the power**

 **and the glory are yours**

 **now and for ever. Amen.**

**Song O Praise the Name of the Lord our God**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqBpifDpNKc>

**Closing Prayer**

May God’s streams of living water flow continually for you,

may you hunger and thirst for more of God,

in mind, body, soul and strength,

and may you come close the source of that new life

that never ceases, day or night.

**Amen**.

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…