

Agape for Maundy Thursday

Preparation for the feast

The Day of Unleavened Bread came, the day the Passover lamb was prepared. Jesus sent Peter and John off, saying, "Go prepare the Passover for us so we can eat it together." They said, "Where do you want us to do this?" He said, "Keep your eyes open as you enter the city. A man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him home. Then speak with the owner of the house: The Teacher wants to know, 'Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' He will show you a spacious second-story room, swept and ready. Prepare the meal there." They left, found everything just as he told them, and prepared the Passover meal.

Luke 22: 7-13

Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this place quite often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.

Let us recognize his presence with us.

Silence is kept.

Holiness not hygiene

Just before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that the time had come to leave this world to go to the Father. Having loved his dear companions, he continued to love them right to the end. It was supertime. The Devil by now had Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, firmly in his grip, all set for the betrayal. Jesus knew that the Father had put him in complete charge of everything, that he came from God and was on his way back to God.

So, he got up from the supper table, set aside his robe, and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with his apron. When he got to Simon Peter, Peter said, "Master, you wash my feet?"

Jesus answered, "You don't understand now what I'm doing, but it will be clear enough to you later." Peter persisted, "You're not going to wash my feet—ever!" Jesus said, "If I don't wash you, you can't be part of what I'm doing." "Master!" said Peter. "Not only my feet, then. Wash my hands! Wash my head!" Jesus said, "If you've had a bath in the morning, you only need your feet washed now and you're clean from head to toe. My concern-you understand-is holiness, not hygiene. So now you're clean. John 13:1-17

Let us confess our sins...

I confess to God and in the company of all God's people that my life and the life of the world are broken by my sin.

May God forgive you; Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.

We confess to God and in the company of all God's people that our lives and the life of the world are broken by our sin.

May God forgive you; Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. **Amen.**

Everyone is invited to wash their hands as a symbol of our repentance and forgiveness.

Music whilst we wash our hands

Our Prayers

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciple's 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 the 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.**

Our Father in heaven,

let Your name remain holy.

Bring about Your kingdom.

**Manifest Your will here on earth,
as it is manifest in heaven.**

Give us each day that day's bread

—no more, no less—

and forgive us our debts

as we forgive those who owe us something.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

But let Your kingdom be,

and let it be powerful and glorious forever.

Amen.

His last supper

After supper among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread, and, having blessed it, He broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'This is my body which is given for you'. In the same way he took wine and, having given thanks for it, He poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying 'This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it.

So now, following Jesus' example, we take ordinary things of the World through which God will bless. And, as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, let us also celebrate God's goodness.

Blessed are you, O God, for you have brought forth bread from the earth.

Blessed are you, O God, for you have created the fruit of the vine.

And here at your table You offer us bread and wine for the journey to nourish us as sons and daughters.

Look, the Bread of Heaven is broken for the life of the world.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

We offer our neighbour the bread saying, 'The Body of Christ' and the wine saying, 'The Blood of Christ'.

After communion

We extinguish candles, all but one that burns by the consecrated bread and wine.

They sang a hymn and went directly to Mount Olives. Then Jesus went with them to a garden called Gethsemane and told his disciples, "Stay here while I go over there and pray." Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he plunged into an agonizing sorrow. Then he said, "This sorrow is crushing my life out. Stay here and keep vigil with me."

Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do *you* want?"

When he came back to his disciples, he found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, "Can't you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert; be in prayer so you don't wander into temptation without even knowing you're in danger. There is a part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there's another part that's as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire."

He then left them a second time. Again, he prayed, "My Father, if there is no other way than this, drinking this cup to the dregs, I'm ready. Do it your way."

When he came back, he again found them sound asleep. They simply couldn't keep their eyes open. This time he let them sleep on, and went back a third time to pray, going over the same ground one last time.

When he came back the next time, he said, "Are you going to sleep on and make a night of it? My time is up, the Son of Man is about to be handed over to the hands of sinners. Get up! Let's get going! My betrayer is here..." Matthew 26:30-46

With these words we end our service