

Welcome to Maundy Thursday
Agape Meal and Washing of Feet



Youth Choir introit. *Now my tongue the mystery telling -
plainsong (Pange Lingua)*

*Now, my tongue, the mystery telling
of the glorious body sing,
and the blood, all price excelling,
which the Gentiles Lord and King,
in a Virgins womb once dwelling,
shed for this worlds ransoming.*

*Given for us, and condescending
to be born for us below,
he, with us in converse blending,
dwelt the seed of truth to sow,
till he closed with wondrous ending
his most patient life of woe.*

*That last night, at supper lying,
mid the Twelve, his chosen band,
Jesus, with the law complying,
keeps the feast its rites demand;
then, more precious food supplying,
gives himself with his own hand.*

*Therefore we, before him bending,
this great sacrament revere:
types and shadows have their ending,
for the newer rite is here;
faith, our outward sense befriending,
makes our inward vision clear.*

*Glory let us give and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
honour, might, and praise addressing,
while eternal ages run;
ever too his love confessing,
who, from both, with both is One.*

St Thomas Aquinas (1227-74), Tr. J. M. Neale, E. Caswall and others

Welcome and Prayer

Song:

Gather around, for the table is spread,
Welcome the food and rest!
Wide is our circle, with Christ at the head,
He is the honoured guest.

*Learn of his love, grow in his grace,
Pray for the peace he gives;
Here at this meal, here in this place,
Know that his spirit lives!*

Gather around, for the table is spread,
Bread for the journey home,
Broken for us is the comforting bread,
Life and a welcome home.

(Refrain)

Gather around, for the table is spread,
Wine for the thirst of heart,
Drink of the cup which the Master has fed,
New and a better start.

(Refrain)

Reading: *Love III* by George Herbert

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
 Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
 If I lack'd anything.

'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'
 Love said, 'You shall be he.'
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
 I cannot look on Thee.'



Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
 'Who made the eyes but I?'

'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame
 Go where it doth deserve.'

'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'
 'My dear, then I will serve.'

'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'
 So I did sit and eat.

Reading: 1 Kings 19.3-9

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."

Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he travelled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 23 (*New International Reader's Version*)

A psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need.

He lets me lie down in fields of green grass.

He leads me beside quiet waters.

He gives me new strength.

He guides me in the right paths

for the honour of his name.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I will not be afraid. You are with me.

Your shepherd's rod and staff comfort me.

You prepare a feast for me

right in front of my enemies.

You pour oil on my head.

My cup runs over.

I am sure that your goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life.

And I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Introduction to the Making Group Lent Course:

Stained Glass and Chairs.

The Washing of Feet

Reading: John 13.1-17

Everyone is invited to have your feet washed, but no one is compelled. If you would like to, please move to one of the empty undecorated chairs in the altar circle, and move back to your seat afterwards. There is no hurry.

During the washing of feet the Youth choir will sing:

'I Give you a New Commandment' by Aston

Taize Chant: Ubi Caritas et amor, ubi caritas, deus ibi est.



Food for the Journey

During the music we move to the tables. Feel free to join in with the singing if you wish.

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith
We rise to respond: and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.

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When everyone has found a seat we pray together

The Lord's Prayer

*And the youth choir will sing grace for us. Please enjoy the food
and drink and try to talk with someone you don't already know.*

Towards the end of the meal:

Reading: The Gospel: Words of Institution

Matthew 26. 26-29

*Tonight we take bread and wine, give
thanks, and share them. Everyone is
welcome to take part whether or not you
are admitted to communion. Please pass
the bread and the cup to your neighbours
with the words:*

*'Bread for the journey' and 'wine for the
journey'.*


*But please do not dip your bread into the
chalice of wine – thank you.*



The Holy Gospel:

Betrayal - "And it was Night"

John 13. 21-30



After this we get up from the tables and in as much silence as possible we clear away the food and tables, and strip the altars of their hangings. Those of us who can't help clear are invited to move to the chancel and say the psalms of lament aloud. Slowly the lights are dimmed and extinguished.

After the buzz of conversation and the joys of friendship we are left with the darkness of betrayal and a night of intense prayer as Jesus goes into the Garden of Gethsemane and prays that this cup might pass him by, but that his Father's will be done.

We hold a silent vigil in the chancel until midnight – please come and go as you need.

And tomorrow our worship is around the cross between 12 noon and 3pm. A service of meditation, silence, and music, with communion from the reserved sacrament and the veneration of the cross. This is a service where people come and go as they need. Come for a short time or stay for three hours. Everyone is welcome.