

# Maundy Thursday Act of Worship

## With Spiritual act of Holy Communion

When Unable to Attend a Celebration of Holy Communion





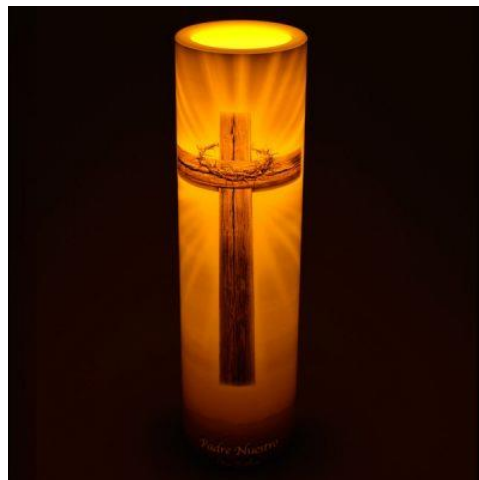
*Before we start.....*

This year as we prepare for Passover, there is a sense of sadness and disappointment. We are forced to celebrate this evening without the joy of church family. This will mean going through the Passover all alone in the quietness and stillness of our own homes. For some, just thinking about can fill the mind and heart with the sinking feeling of loneliness and sadness.

While it is certainly the right thing to do at this time to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. For so many of us the Passover – [seder meal] is an annual highlight, a reunion of church members.

An evening of celebration, but it is still hard to imagine such a Passover meal being joyous or moving in any meaningful way but perhaps a bit of perspective can empower us to make this year's Passover meaningful and moving, and even reclaim some of the inner joy that is available to us on this night.

*You may want to light a candle before you begin,  
have a bible, cross to look at or some music to play.*



*I encourage you to read all the words aloud.*

## A call to worship

The Lord is here.

The Spirit is with us.

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden:

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

## Praise & Confession

Lord Jesus,

We are stunned at Your passion and Your commitment toward us.

You did not run from the darkness,

You did not hide from Your accusers,

You did not fade into safe obscurity.

You stepped with determination into the darkness,

Willingly giving Yourself to whip and fist, to wood and nails.

We praise You, Gracious Lord,

For what You were prepared to endure to reconcile us with God.

Forgive us that allow ourselves to become too familiar with this story. That we take Your suffering too lightly, and receive Your grace too cheaply.

As we watch with You, while the darkness encroaches,

Let us remember what this journey means, and count again the cost of love. Amen.

We praise You, Gracious Lord,  
for Your words of forgiveness, and the invitation to paradise.

Collect of the Day.

God our Father,  
you have invited us to share in the supper  
which your Son gave to his Church  
to proclaim his death until he comes:  
unable to receive the bread and wine,  
may he nourish us by his presence,  
and unite us in his love;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever  
You could use one or more of the readings of the day or the  
following short

Reading:

John 13: v 1-17; v 31-35



Leonardo da Vinci famous painting The Last Supper.

## Reflection

We may be familiar with Leonardo da Vinci famous painting of The Last supper. The scene that he depicts, is that moment when Jesus announces his impending betrayal. The disciples look at one another with great shock, all, that is, except Judas, who refuses to look Jesus in the face and clutches his money to his breast.

I wonder as we look at those disciples around the table if we can see ourselves. For me they represent all that is good and bad about our humanity.

Maybe we can see ourselves in **Matthew**. Here was a man who had a brilliant, analytical mind, but who initially used it for self rather than God. He became a tax collector, a man who was in bed with the Romans. It was his responsibility to extract the tax money from his brothers--money that went to support the very institution that was enslaving the Jews. Matthew's mind was like an adding machine. His god was the dollar mark. He reminds us of just how far many of us are willing to go to advance our own personal ambition.

But when Matthew came over to Jesus he came all the way. Now he was using that brilliant analytical mind to analyze the message of the master. Now he was using his education to keep an account of the Master's teachings. Matthew reminds us that our talents are God given, but we must chose to use our talents toward the right end, that is, to enhance humanity. To make this world a better place by our having been alive. Matthew did just that. His Gospel which bears his name contains Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and a majority of Jesus' parables. The Gospel according to Matthew changed the world like few writings have ever done.

Maybe we see ourselves in **James and John**. They remind us of the pride and the ego that is within us all. It was their mother who went to Jesus to do their bidding for them. She admonished the Master: "When you come into your Kingdom place my sons, one on your right hand, and one on your left hand. Even on this, the occasion of their last night together, the disciples are arguing amongst themselves which one is the greatest and who deserves the seat of honor at the table. James and John remind us that if we are to follow Jesus we must first surrender ego. We must decrease so that he might increase. We must remember the words of Jesus: He, who would be greatest among you, must be a servant.

Or maybe we see ourselves in **Nathaniel**. He reminds us of the prejudice that is in our land and in our hearts. When he first heard about Jesus he was quoted as saying, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" In a thousand ways we echo his words and sentiments. Can any good thing come out of (we name our own town Guildford).

Can any good thing come out of the U.K? (can name another familiar to us)

Can any good thing come out of a retirement home?

Can any good thing come out of my family?

Nathaniel would remind us that if we are to free others we must first be free ourselves-- free of the prejudices that separate us from others.

Certainly we can see a part of ourselves in **Thomas**. He was like the man who announces everything with the words "show me." Like Thomas, we, too, long for proof, for something tangible.

We live in a cynical, prove-it-to-me age. But Thomas would remind us that resurrection faith is not something that can be neatly wrapped up in a package. We can never possess faith as one would possess a thing. To follow the Master we must be able to echo the words: Lord, I believe, help thou my unbelief.

There was **Simon the Zealot**. It embarrasses me to say that I see some of myself in this man, for he was one who hated with a passion.

He reminds me that anger is an emotion that I am not beyond myself.

The zealots were a political faction who wanted the Romans out and the Jews in, and they were more than willing to commit murder and mayhem to accomplish their goal. They were terrorists who said that the end justifies the means. Simon would remind us that if we are to follow the master we must look at his total message, even the parts that say: Love your enemy. Pray for those who persecute you.

**There is Andrew.** It was he who brought his brother Simon Peter to Jesus, but never does he get the notoriety. He always lives under the shadow of that great man. Never does he enter into the inner circle, consisting of Peter, James, and John, although he brought them all to Jesus, and he had been fishing with them since they were boys. Andrew reminds us that if we are to follow the Master, we cannot insist on being in the limelight. Those who are truly in service will rarely get recognition and notoriety. There will be times when we must defer to others in humility and for the sake of unity.



There was **Judas**. If we do not see Judas in ourselves it is because we are not looking closely enough. Judas was so impatient with Jesus.

He believed that Jesus really did have the power to bring about the Kingdom of God, but he did not understand why he kept waiting. Judas, therefore, contrived a situation in which Jesus would be forced to show his power. He would turn him over to the Jews and Romans. Judas would remind us that if we are to follow the Master we must remember that our schedule is not always God's schedule and that our means are not always God's means. We see with the vision of the immediate. God sees with the vision of eternity. God knows. We only think that we know.

And then there is **Simon Peter** how impetuous he was. Always willing to look before he leaped. When Jesus told the disciples that they would all fall away, it was Simon Peter who shouted Lord, though they all fall away, I will never leave your side. But Simon Peter did fall away. He denied Jesus not once but three times. He would remind us that to follow the master we must count the cost of discipleship.

We may not be able to join together in the meal, but we can reflect on that first meal.

We can confess before God that we are all of the disciples, with all of their frailties and sinfulness. But we are also like them in our sincere desire to follow our Lord, The Christ.

## Prayer

Prayer for our Queen ' Defender of the faith' for our Church.

- That others may come to know the Love saving grace of our Lord
- Spend a few moments praying for the people you know and love,

### **We pray also at this time.**

Heavenly Father,

We hold before you all impacted by the Corona-virus at this present time, we pray especially for our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson and all Leaders of our nation and for the governments of the world that they make seek your wisdom and may guard and guide us and all peoples through this present crisis,

We ask your blessing on those treating and caring for all who are suffering, for our National Health Service staff and volunteers; For the Emergency Services and for all those who continue to work for our benefit, Locally and Nationally.

We pray in the name of the one who suffered, died and rose for us.  
Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father,

which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen.

## Spiritual Communion

### Act of Spiritual Reception

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, I offer you praise and thanksgiving.

Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptized and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

Jesus, as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so may the soul of your servant be healed, for though I cannot receive you in the sacrament I can, through this offering of my prayer, receive you in my heart; grant this for Christ's sake. Amen.

O Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. Amen.

### Thanksgiving

I/we thank You, Lord

For giving me/us this sacred meal,

for giving us Your Presence and Your life,

And for reminding us of your everlasting grace,

Which will be celebrated

for all eternity. Amen.

## *A moment of silence*

### **The Peace**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

