

A LITURGY FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

As the ministers enter, a hymn may be sung.

The presider says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

whose mercy endures for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A minister may then address the people in these or similar words.

Tonight we begin the Great Three Days of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection, the journey from the supper table to the cross, from the cross to Easter dawn. We are followers in his way, exploring his truth, encountering his life.

This is the night when Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would betray him.

This is the night when Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

This is the night when Christ our Lord gave us the feast of Holy Communion, that as we break the bread and drink the cup we may proclaim his holy sacrifice, and come at the last to his table in heaven.

This is the night when Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, showing us how to honour and serve one another in love.

This is the night for watching and prayer.

We give ourselves freely to the demands of these great days, confident that those who die in Christ will surely live with him.

A minister introduces the Confession.

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves'
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Standing, the presider says

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith,
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The presider then says the Collect.

Let us pray.

Silence may be kept.

Lord God,

Your love was embodied in Jesus Christ, who washed his disciples' feet on the night of his betrayal.

Wash us from the stain of sin, so that in hours of danger, we may not fail, but follow your Son through every trial, and praise him always as Lord and Christ, to whom be glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 12.1-14

Psalms 116.1-2, 11-18

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 11.23-26

A hymn or anthem may be sung.

Gospel Reading: John 13.1-17

The Sermon

The Washing of Feet may take place before or after the Prayers.

THE WASHING OF THE FEET

When the Washing of Feet is to take place, the presider says

Friends in Christ, I invite you to come forward,
that we may recall whose servants we are
and remember his teaching,
that what is done for us is also to be done for others.

Hymns or anthems may be sung during the washing (see Appendix) or it may take place in silence.

The following hymn may be used during the Washing of the Feet.

Ubi caritas et amor

1. Where love and loving kindness dwell
there God will ever be.
one Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
in perfect charity.
2. Brought here together into one
by Christ our Shepherd-king,
now let us in his love rejoice,
and of his goodness sing.
3. Here too let God, the loving God,
both loved and honoured be;
and let us each the other love
with true sincerity.
4. Brought here together by Christ's love,
let no ill-will divide,
nor quarrels break the unity
of those for whom he died.
5. Let envy, jealousy and strife
and all contention cease,
for in our midst serves Christ the Lord,
our sacrament of peace.

6. Together may we with the saints
thy face in glory see,
and ever in thy kingdom feast,
O Christ our God, with thee.

Trans Geoffrey Preston (1936-77); *Hymns A&M New Standard* # 528

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God, on this, the night he was betrayed,
your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.
As we commit ourselves to following his example of love and service,
teach us humility.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one.
As we grieve for the divisions in the church,
unite us.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus prayed for those who would come to believe
through the disciples' message.
As we take up the mission of the church,
renew our zeal.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus commanded his friends to love,
but he suffered rejection himself.
As we open our hearts to the rejected and the unloved,
fill us with your love.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus reminded his people that, if the world hated them,
it had hated him first.
As we face our own fears, we pray for those who are persecuted for their faith;
give us your peace.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

On this night, Jesus loved his friends to the very end,
As we open our hearts to all who face darkness tonight,
we pray for the sick, those who mourn, those trapped by violence, addiction, or pain:
give healing and hope.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Faithful God, these are the prayers of your Church.

**We offer them trusting and hoping in you.
Hear and help us, challenge and change us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF THE PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a greeting of peace.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray.

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

A hymn may be sung.

The linen, ornaments, and hangings may be removed.

Psalm 22 may be said, or Mark 14.41b-50 may be read.

Ministers and people depart in silence without a blessing or dismissal.