



Maundy Thursday

The name 'Maundy' derives from the Latin for 'new commandment' – mandatum novum – which Christ gave his disciples at the 'Last Supper'.

Opening Words

O Christ, pouring yourself out,
love drained to the last drop,
release us from our sins.

O Christ, kneeling as a servant,
washing the disciples' feet,
shocking in your humility,
help us to follow in your way.

O Christ, taking bread and wine,
crystal-clear in your awareness
of the work you must complete,
nourish us on your saving presence.

O Christ, entering Gethsemane,
falling on your face to pray,
uncontainable in your broken heart,
strengthen us to share your sufferings.

Infinite, intimate God,
kneel before us and wash our feet.
**In awe and wonder, we lay ourselves bare
to your redeeming acts of love. Amen**

Opening Poem

Maundy Thursday

Here is the source of every sacrament,
The all-transforming presence of the Lord,
Replenishing our every element
Remaking us in his creative Word.
For here the earth herself gives bread and wine,
The air delights to bear his Spirit's speech,
The fire dances where the candles shine,
The waters cleanse us with His gentle touch.
And here He shows the full extent of love

To us whose love is always incomplete,
In vain we search the heavens high above,
The God of love is kneeling at our feet.
Though we betray Him, though it is the night.
He meets us here and loves us into light.

-Malcom Guite

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2012/04/04/maundy-thursday/>

Gospel Reading

John 13: 1-15, 34-35

Sacrament of Service

Love of God, poured out for the world: let this water be for us a source of life; as we share in this gift of kindness, wash away our fear, revive our faith, let your love shine through. Amen.

You are invited to wash your hands or feet, cherishing each part, each scar or imperfection, the beauty and the evidence of life - aware and surrounded by the hands of God wrapping you tenderly in love.

The Prayers

Response ***hear our prayer.***

Merciful God, on 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..

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...

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...

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

Our prayers for ourselves and for the world...

Holy God, on this night you gave us this meal of bread and wine in which we celebrate your great compassion. Grant that we may work with you to fulfil

our prayers, and to love and serve others as Christ has loved us; we offer these prayers trusting and hoping in you and gather them in the words Jesus taught us to pray...

Our Father (in the translation or language of your heart)

Sharing with Christ around our own tables

As we eat with gratitude in our own homes, we remember that we are united across time and place to each other and to the meal Jesus shared with his companions. As we eat and drink we remember that Jesus comes to us as guest and host as we welcome him in.

Oh God, we ask your blessing on this wine (juice) we drink tonight

May the wine (juice) be blessed on our lips,
blessed as the intimacy of the wedding feast,
blessed as the miracle made from water,
blessed as the harvest of the grapes,
blessed as the mystery of fermentation,
blessed as the suffering undergone for love.

God we ask your blessing on this bread we eat tonight.

We break it because our ancestors have broken bread for ages upon ages and in ways upon ways.

We break it to remember our vulnerability, that we depend on bread, as we do on each other.

We break it to remember that it is in our brokenness that we meet each other.

We break it to remember that in community we are made whole, that though we are scattered you will gather us again in your love.

We break it to remember the earth, to celebrate the growing and dying and growing again of grain.

We break it for the courage to break.

We break it for the courage to heal.

We break it to remember that we must share our bread and our tables with those who need food and a place.

We break it to remembering that on the night before he died Jesus shared bread and wine, companionship and prayer, inviting us in, offering his life that we may be fully his.

As we eat and drink this night, Oh God, may we know Jesus in the breaking of the bread and in our burning hearts. Amen

Dinner

Prayer after Dinner

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of betrayal Jesus commanded his disciples to love one another as he loved them. We thank you for feeding us in this supper. For caressing our hands and feet with your love. Give us the will to love and serve others as he was servant of all. For we live and move and have our being in You, Trinity of Love. Amen.

Stripping the table

The table is cleared and washed, reminding us that Jesus' body was washed before burial, according to ancient custom. Other icons or symbols can be put away at this time.

Final Reading Matthew 26: 36-45

Closing Chant

The image shows a musical score for a closing chant. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has a treble staff with a melody and a bass staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch _____ and". The second system starts with a measure number '4' above the treble staff. The lyrics are: "pray. _____ watch and pray _____". The music is in a simple, contemplative style with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature.

Words and music: Taize Community, 1982 (from Matthew 26)

Some of the following sources have been used: 'Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England'; 'The New Zealand Prayer Book (1989)'; 'All Desires Known,' by Janet Morley; 'A Wee Worship Book (1999),' by Wild Goose Worship Group; 'The Book of a Thousand Prayers', compiled by Angela Ashwin; Stay with me: Taize Community. Poetry by Malcolm Guite. <https://malcolmquite.wordpress.com/2012/04/04/maundy-thursday/>