



St Mary's Parish Church, Ross-on-Wye

The Liturgy for Maundy Thursday



Our Eucharist this evening is perhaps the most symbolically rich services in the whole of the Christian Year and a splendid piece of liturgical theatre.

We are here to remember the events of Christ's last night on earth before his Crucifixion. We think of his humility. Here, in the most holy and solemn week of the year, we hold a celebration for the institution of the Eucharist itself. So the altars and vestments are white and gold, we sing the Gloria again.

But after we have shared the meal, the mood changes in a sudden and dramatic twist. The splendour is stripped, the church becomes dark, we hear words in music from a bleak time in Jerusalem's past. We look to tomorrow. We walk away in silence.

At various points in the service people are invited to stand. However, if you prefer to remain seated, please don't feel embarrassed to do so.

This service is being live streamed to YouTube and recorded. Unless you are told otherwise, only the area at the front from where the service is led is usually in shot. However if you wish to be assured that you will remain off camera please sit further back in the nave.

Gluten-free wafers are available, please let one of the welcomers know at the door if you would like to receive one.

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The Gathering

Welcome & Notices

*Before the service begins the president offers words of welcome and gives any notices. More about what's going on in and around St Mary's will be found on our website, rossparishes.uk and Facebook page **St Mary's Church Ross-on-Wye**.*

Introit Hymn

Details of the hymn will be found in the weekly newsletter. Please note that we omit starred verses in hymns unless otherwise announced. During the hymn the clergy and choir enter.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you

All And also with you.

Prayers of Penitence

The President invites us to confess our sins

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

'If you love me, keep my commandments.'

'Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.'

'Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love,
and ask him to cleanse us.

Silence is kept

Have mercy on us, O God,
in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out our offences.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Against you only have we sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Purge us from our sin and we shall be clean;
wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

May the Father forgive *us*
by the death of his Son
and strengthen *us*
to live in the power of the Spirit
all *our* days.

All Amen.

The Gloria

We stand to sing the Gloria, a hymn praising God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

This is the special prayer for today.

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:
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.

All **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

We sit for the first reading.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper,

saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11.23-26

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

We stand to sing the hymn that introduces the Gospel. Details are on the newsletter. During this hymn the Gospel procession moves to the top of the nave symbolising the coming of God into our world.

The Gospel

We remain standing to hear the Gospel.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:

Love one another as I have loved you.

All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John**.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you

will understand.” Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13.1-17, 31b-35

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you, O Christ

After the response the Gospel procession returns, as the organ plays, and we sit for:

The Sermon

The Washing of Feet

We sit and reflect on Christ's humility as the president washes the feet of some members of the congregation.

The anthem 'Ubi Caritas', a hymn, or a psalm will be sung during the washing of feet. Details will be found on the newsletter.

The washing of feet ends with this prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We sit for the prayers.

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father
through Christ the saviour of the world.

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed,
your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.
We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.
Lord, hear us

All and humble us.

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.
We pray for the unity of your Church.

Lord, hear us

All and unite us.

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through his disciples' message.

We pray for the mission of your Church.

Lord, hear us

All and renew our zeal.

On this night, he commanded his disciples to love, but suffered rejection himself.

We pray for the rejected and unloved.

Lord, hear us

All and fill us with your love.

On this night, he reminded his disciples that if the world hated them, it hated him first.

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.

Lord, hear us

All and give us your peace.

On this night, he accepted the cup of death and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom.

We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.

Lord, hear us

All and welcome all your children into paradise.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The president introduces the Peace:

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

All and also with you.

We exchange a sign of peace. If you are joining us online, you might like to use the chat to do this.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand to join in with the Offertory Hymn, details of which will be found on the newsletter. During this hymn a collection is taken.

During this hymn the table is prepared and the bread and wine are received at the altar.

At the end of the hymn we pray:

At the eucharist we are with our crucified and risen Lord.

We know that it was not only our ancestors,

but we who were redeemed

and brought forth from bondage to freedom,

from mourning to feasting.

We know that as he was with them in the upper room

so our Lord is here with us now.

All Until the kingdom of God comes

let us celebrate this feast.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,

you bring forth bread from the earth.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,
you create the fruit of the vine.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

This long prayer, containing many elements, is the very heart of our Eucharist. In it we all pray that the Real Presence of Christ may be present in form of bread and wine, and that by partaking in this remembrance of Christ we may be spiritually united with God.

We stand for Eucharist Prayer B

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because, having loved his own who were in the world,

he loved them to the end;
and on the night before he suffered,
sitting at table with his disciples,
he instituted these holy mysteries,
that we, redeemed by his death
and restored to life by his resurrection,
might be partakers of his divine nature.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;

he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me.

All When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of St Mary, St Michael, all angels and all saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

We sit to say the words that Jesus taught us to pray.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**All We proclaim the Lord's death
Until he comes**

Spiritual Communion

This prayer offers those who are taking part in our service online the opportunity to make a spiritual communion so that in communion we are united, as one Christian family with our Lord.

**All Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
May all that is you flow into me.
May your body and blood be my food and drink.**

May your passion and death be my strength and life.
Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.
May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.
Let me not run from the love which you offer
but hold me safe from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.
Keep calling to me until that day comes
when with your saints, I may praise you for ever.
Amen.

Agnus Dei

We remain seated to sing the Agnus Dei

All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

The president gives words of invitation to communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,

and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

Everyone is invited to take communion at St Mary's.

During the communion, music appropriate to the theme of the service is sung by the choir. Please see the newsletter for details.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept

Lord Jesus Christ,
we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament
you have given us the memorial of your passion:
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries
of your body and blood
that we may know within ourselves
and show forth in our lives
the fruit of your redemption,
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

All Amen

The Conclusion

The Stripping of the Sanctuary

The altars and the sanctuary are now stripped bare, and the lights gradually go out. We prepare for the events of Good Friday and reflect on Christ, alone in the Garden of Gethsemane after supper.

As this happens, words from the Lamentation of Jeremiah are sung by the choir, to a setting by Edward Bairstow (1874 – 1946). The prophet is lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem in 586BC. These are poignant words on the night before the Messiah is to be crucified in that very city.

How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people!
how is she become as a widow!
She that was great among the nations, and princess among her provinces,
how is she become tributary!
She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks:
among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her:
The ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn assembly:
All her gates are desolate: and she, herself, is in bitterness.
The Lord hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions:
her children are gone into captivity before the enemy.
All they that go by clap their hands at her:
they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem saying,
"Is this the city that men call the perfection of beauty;
the joy of the whole earth."

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.

For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water.
From on high hath the Lord sent fire into my bones and it prevaieth against
them; he hath made me desolate and faint all the day.
My flesh and my skin hath he made old: he hath broken my bones.
He hath builded against me; and compassed me with gall and travail.
He hath made me to dwell in dark places: as those that have been long dead.
I am become a derision to all my people: and their song all the day.
Let him give his cheek to him that smiteth him: let him be filled with reproach.
Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?
Behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow:
Remember mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.

Remember O Lord what is come upon us: behold and see our reproach.
The joy of our heart is ceased: our dance is turned into mourning.

The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us for we have sinned.
For this our heart is faint: for these things our eyes are dim.
Let us search and try our ways: and turn again unto the Lord.
Turn thou us unto thee O Lord and we shall be turned: renew our days as of old.
It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed:
because his compassions fail not.
They are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness.
The Lord is my portion saith my soul therefore will I hope in him.
O Lord thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul: Thou hast redeemed my life.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.

The Dismissal

When the disciples had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed to the Father, 'If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me.' He said to his disciples, 'How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinners.'

Christ was obedient unto death. Go in his peace.

There is no response. There is no blessing and no procession, instead we depart individually when we are ready.

We have unfinished business here. The untidy ending of our service reflects the falling away of the sleeping disciples, that night in the Garden of Gethsemane, as Jesus prayed. You may choose to stay, and watch and wait with him for a while before you leave.

Tomorrow we will return and continue the story.

Thank you for being with us this evening, we hope you have found the service fulfilling and look forward to welcoming you back as events continue to unfold.

You will find details of the remaining services for Holy Week and Easter on the newsletter and on our website: rossparishes.uk

