



St. Luke's Church
Maidenhead

Holy Communion and Watch on Maundy Thursday



Introduction to the Season

On the Thursday, of Holy Week, now called Maundy Thursday, Jesus had his last meal with his disciples, the origin of our service of Holy Communion. This may well have been the Passover meal.

At this meal he also washed the feet of all his apostles, as a servant might. He told them to eat the meal whenever they met together, and to 'Love one another as I have loved you'. He called this a new commandment and that is how the day got its name. The Latin word *mandatum* means 'Commandment'.

The day contains a rich complex of themes:

- humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet,
- the institution of the Eucharist,
- the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

From Maundy Thursday until Easter Day we enter the Triduum - three days of one long liturgy. There is no blessing at the end of this service as we participate in the end of Jesus' life and anticipate his resurrection in one complete action.

At the end of this service a watch will be kept until late, to recall Jesus' instruction to his disciples to keep watch in Gethsemane.

For Jesus this was a day of movement and activity.

In our worship we will echo that as we use all our senses:

- Taste, in sharing food
- Touch, in the washing of hands or feet
- Smell, in our food and oils in the washing water
- Sound, in the singing and in the silence of the Watch
- Sight, in the beauty of the Garden of repose, just within our sight on the high altar, symbolising Gethsemane.

You are invited to participate as fully as you feel able.

¶ *The Gathering*

Hymn

We stand to sing the hymn as we take our places

The Greeting

The president greets the people

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 the people to confession, saying

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.

We sit or kneel. 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 president says

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.**

We stand to sing the Gloria

Gloria in Excelsis

**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

The president introduces a period of silent prayer, saying

Let us pray that we may love one another as Christ has loved us.

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*

We sit for the readings

Readings

At the end of each:
This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

We stand to sing the hymn

Gospel Reading

We remain standing and turn towards the reading of the Gospel.

This acclamation heralds the Gospel reading:

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.**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

We sit down for the sermon

The Washing of Hand or Feet

You are warmly invited to have your hands or feet washed by the ministers. An anthem may be sung during this.

The washing may end 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

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

We stand

The president, standing at the altar, says

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

**Preparation of the Altar
Taking of the Bread and Wine
Hymn**

*All sing the hymn, during which the altar is prepared and bread
and wine are placed upon it.*

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.**

We remain standing

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

It is indeed right to give you thanks,
Father most holy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For on this night he girded himself with a towel
and, taking the form of a servant,
washed the feet of his disciples.
He gave us a new commandment
that we should love one another as he has loved us.
Knowing that his hour had come,
in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples
to be a memorial of his passion,
that we might proclaim his death until he comes again,
and feast with him in his kingdom.
Therefore earth unites with heaven
to sing a new song of praise;
we too join with angels and archangels
as they proclaim your glory without end:

**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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
All **Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

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 all the 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**

We remain standing

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as our Saviour has taught us

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.**

We sing or say the Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Give us your peace.**

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those
who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

The president and people receive communion.

The body of Christ, broken for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and the communicant replies

Amen

*During the distribution we may sing a hymn,
or keep silence to pray*

Prayer after Communion

We sit or kneel and keep silence

The Post Communion prayer is said:

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 Blessed Sacrament is taken to the Altar of Repose. The flowers on the altar represent the Garden of Gethsemane in which Jesus prayed on this night and invited his disciples to keep watch and pray with him.

The Stripping of the Sanctuary

The nave altar and sanctuary are stripped bare as the choir sings the invitation: 'Keep watch with me'.

The Watch

The service continues with the reading of the Gospel of the Watch: Matthew 26. 30 - end.

The gospel takes up the story from after the last Supper.

Please DO NOT LEAVE until the reading has ended.

The Watch will continue in silence until the time notified, when Compline will be said. Feel free to come and go if you wish, but please do so quietly so that others are not disturbed.



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