



Vespers for Maundy Thursday

Greeting

Presider

This is the day
**that Christ gathered his disciples
in the upper room.**

This is the day
**that Christ took a towel
and washed the disciples' feet,
giving us an example that we should do to others
as he has done to us.**

Praise

[‘Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love’](#)

Psalm: Psalm 116.1-2, 12-19 (NRSV)

Psalmist

I will lift up the cup of salvation.

I will lift up the cup of salvation.

I love the Lord *

who has heard the voice of my supplication,
who has listened to me *
whenever I called.

I will lift up the cup of salvation.

How shall I repay you, O Lord, *

for all the good things you have done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation *

and call upon your name.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord *

in the presence of all the people.

I will lift up the cup of salvation.

Precious in your sight, O Lord *

is the death of your servants.

O Lord, I am your servant; *

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

I will lift up the cup of salvation.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the name of the Lord.
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all the people of God.
In the courts of the house of the Lord, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

I will lift up the cup of salvation.

Psalmist

Eternal God, faithful in your tender compassion, you give us hope for our life here and hereafter through the victory of your only Son. When we share his cup of salvation, revive in us the joy of this everlasting gift. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

Reading: John 13.1-17, 31b-35

Reader

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

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.

“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 who do not believe in me] 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.”

After the Reading you are invited to offer your reflections. Then the Reader brings the reflections to a close by saying,

Reader

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Prayers

Leader

Let us offer our intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings.

Open prayer may be offered in silence or spoken.

Send forth your strength, O God,
establish what you have wrought in us.

Uphold all those who fall
and raise us those who are bowed down.

Open the eyes of the blind
and set the prisoners free.

Sustain the orphan and widow
and give food to those who hunger.

Grant them the joy of your help again
and sustain them with your Spirit.

O Lord, judge the peoples
and take all nations for your own.

Presider

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. Write this commandment in our hearts; give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave his life and died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider

Standing at the foot of the cross,
and gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

**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.**

Deacon (or Presider)

Let us go forth to love one another as Christ has loved us.
Thanks be to God.

Presider

May Christ our Saviour give us peace. **Amen.**