

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Liturgy for Maundy Thursday

7pm Holy Communion

All stand as the ministers enter.

The Opening Acclamation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People **Amen.**
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray. Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, did institute the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may thankfully receive the same in remembrance of him who in these holy mysteries giveth us a pledge of life eternal, the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Reading

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The Lector concludes The Word of the Lord.

The People respond **Thanks be to God**

*Remain seated. The congregation reads the verses in **bold**.*

The Gradual Psalm 116:1, 10-17

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

**How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?**

I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

**I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.**

Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his 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 offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

**I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,**

In the courts of the Lord's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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.

The Lector concludes The Word of the Lord.
The People respond **Thanks be to God**

All stand.

The Holy Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John.
People **Glory be to thee, 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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

A homily is preached. The Creed is not said on Maundy Thursday.

Following the homily, all kneel.

The Prayers of the People

In the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Father through Christ the Savior 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; **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; **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; **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; **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; **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; **and welcome all your children into paradise.**

The Celebrant says a concluding prayer.

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Facing the high altar, the Celebrant says

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

All stand.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

The Altar is prepared in silence.

When the Celebrant turns and faces the people, all stand.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who for our sins was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; who by his suffering and death became the author of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

All kneel.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For on this very night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he *brake* 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." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

Our Father

And now, as our Savior Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Fraction

Remain kneeling as the Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy upon us.**
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **grant us thy peace.**

The Communion

After Communion, all kneel. The Celebrant says

The Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, 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, and now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All remain kneeling. The Blessed Sacrament is processed in silence to the Altar of Repose.

After the ministers return to the High Altar, the ornaments, vessels and cloths on the altar are removed. The Celebrant reads a portion of St Matthew chapter 26.30-46 is read, followed by Psalm 55.

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be grieved and deeply troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death; stay here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Again, a second time, Jesus went away and prayed, saying, "Father, if this cup cannot pass away from me unless I drink it, your will be done." And he came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

So he left them, went away, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

*The congregation reads the verses of Psalm 55 printed in **bold**. The Celebrant begins*

Hear my prayer, O God; * do not hide yourself from my petition.

Listen to me and answer me; * I have no peace, because of my cares.

I am shaken by the noise of the enemy * and by the pressure of the wicked;
For they have cast an evil spell upon me * and are set against me in fury.

My heart quakes within me, * and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

Fear and trembling have come over me, * and horror overwhelms me.

And I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! * I would fly away and be at rest.

I would flee to a far-off place * and make my lodging in the wilderness.

I would hasten to escape * from the stormy wind and tempest.

**Swallow them up, O Lord; confound their speech; * for I have seen violence
and strife in the city.**

Day and night the watchmen make their rounds upon her walls, *
but trouble and misery are in the midst of her.

**There is corruption at her heart; * her streets are never free of oppression
and deceit.**

For had it been an adversary who taunted me, then I could have borne it; * or had it been
an enemy who vaunted himself against me, then I could have hidden from him.

**But it was you, a man after my own heart, * my companion, my own familiar
friend.**

We took sweet counsel together, * and walked with the throng in the house of God.

**Let death come upon them suddenly; let them go down alive into the grave; *
for wickedness is in their dwellings, in their very midst.**

But I will call upon God, * and the Lord will deliver me.

**In the evening, in the morning, and at noonday, I will complain and lament, *
and he will hear my voice.**

He will bring me safely back from the battle waged against me; * for there are many who fight me.

God, who is enthroned of old, will hear me and bring them down; * they never change; they do not fear God.

My companion stretched forth his hand against his comrade; * he has broken his covenant.

His speech is softer than butter, * but war is in his heart.

His words are smoother than oil, * but they are drawn swords.

Cast your burden upon the Lord, and he will sustain you; * he will never let the righteous stumble.

For you will bring the bloodthirsty and deceitful * down to the pit of destruction, O God.

They shall not live out half their days, * but I will put my trust in you.

The service ends in silence.

You are invited to keep vigil before the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose.

The church remains open until 10pm. It will re-open tomorrow at 10am for silent prayer.

The Good Friday Liturgy begins at 12 Noon.

Please leave this service sheet in the church for future use.

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