



Thursday, April 17, 2025

Maundy Thursday

Welcome to The Beloved Community at The Trees, an Episcopal faith community exploring together what a life of faith “outside of a church” may be. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we believe that all people are God’s beloved and all are welcome, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual identity, ability, faith background, or belief.

In our Baptismal Covenant, we affirm that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. To remember our baptismal promises, that all are God’s beloved, and that we are all one in Christ, we begin each worship gathering with the “Blessing of the Water.”

Blessing of the Water

Reader We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Celebrant Now bless this water, we pray you, that it may be a sign to us of our Baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

A Liturgy for Maundy Thursday

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

People **whose mercy endures for ever.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Tonight we begin the Great Three Days of our Lord’s passion, death and resurrection, the journey from the supper table to the cross, from the cross to Easter dawn.

We are followers in his way, exploring his truth, encountering his life.

This is the night when Christ the Lamb of God gave himself
into the hands of those who would betray him.

This is the night when Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

This is the night when Christ our Lord gave us this holy feast,
that as we break the bread and drink the cup
we may here proclaim his holy sacrifice,
and come at the last to his table in heaven.

This is the night when Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet,
showing us how to honour and serve one another in love.

This is the night for watching and prayer.

We give ourselves freely to the demands of these great days,
confident that those who die in Christ will surely live with him.

Confession of Sin

Deacon God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

A moment of silence for private prayer.

Deacon Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith.

People **Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves'
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
God, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith,
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect

Celebrant Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

A moment of silence for private prayer.

Celebrant Loving God
your Son Jesus Christ has left us this meal
of bread and wine in which we share his body and blood.
May we who celebrate this sign of his great love
show in our lives the fruits of his redemption;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Reader A reading from Exodus.

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. [Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.] 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.

Reader The words of holy scripture.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Psalter

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.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Reader A reading from 1 Corinthians.

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.

Reader The words of holy scripture.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

The Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Deacon The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People **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.

“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.”

Deacon The good news of our Savior.

People **Praise be to Christ.**

Quiet Reflection on the Reading

Lectionary Discussion

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- 1) *What did I learn about God from this week's readings?*
 - 2) *What did I learn about love from this week's readings?*
 - 3) *What did I learn about community from this week's readings?*
 - 4) *What did I learn about myself from this week's readings?*
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Prayers of the People

Celebrant Merciful God, on this, 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,
People **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant 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,

People **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant On this night, Jesus prayed for those who would come to believe
through the disciples' message.
As we take up the mission of the church, renew our zeal.
God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant 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,

People **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant On this night, Jesus reminded his people that, if the world hated them,
it had hated him first.
As we face our own fears, we pray for those who are persecuted for their faith;
give us your peace.
God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

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

People **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Faithful God, these are the prayers of your Church.
We offer them trusting and hoping in you.
Hear and help us, challenge and change us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Washing of Feet

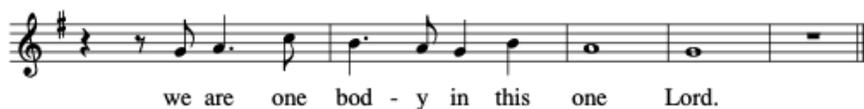
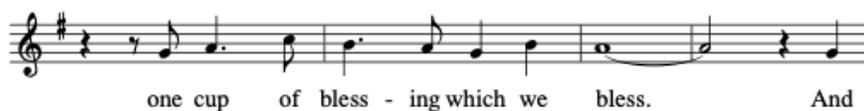
Celebrant Friends in Christ, I invite you to come forward,
that we may recall whose servants we are
and remember his teaching,
that what is done for us is also to be done for others.

Music for Contemplation

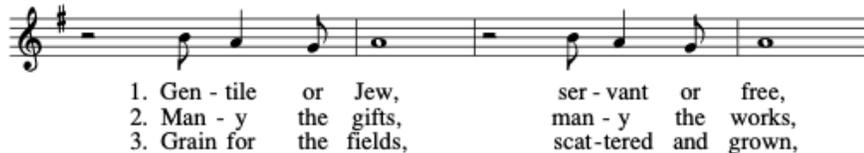
One Bread, One Body

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



Verses



Text: 1 Corinthians 10:16; 17, 12-4, Galatians 3:28; the *Didache* 9; John Foley, SJ, b.1939
Tune: John Foley, SJ, b.1939
© 1978, John B. Foley, SJ, and New Dawn Music. Published by OCP Publications.

The Peace

Celebrant Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

People **We meet in his name and share his peace.**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Music for Preparation

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord

Holy Week

172

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you
* 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you
4 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh!
there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh!
there when they pierced him in the side? Oh!
there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh!

Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,
Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,

trem-ble. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
trem-ble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
trem-ble. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
trem-ble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a four-part vocal setting with a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in four parts, with the first part starting with '1' and the others with '2', '3', and '4'. The score includes a key signature change to G major and a common time signature change to 4/4. The lyrics are: '1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you', '2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you', '* 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you', '4 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you'. The second system includes the lyrics: 'there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh!', 'there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh!', 'there when they pierced him in the side? Oh!', 'there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh!'. The third system includes the lyrics: 'Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,', 'Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,', 'Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,', 'Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,'. The fourth system includes the lyrics: 'trem-ble. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?', 'trem-ble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?', 'trem-ble. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?', 'trem-ble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?'.

Words: Afro-American spiritual

Music: *Were You There*, Afro-American spiritual; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

Irr.

The Holy Communion

From The Anglican Church of Australia (2009)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant With all our hearts we praise you, faithful God.
In the beginning, you called light to shine in darkness,
you made living things to grow and flourish
and you created human beings in your image.

You chose us in love,
guided us by your presence
and blessed us with your holy law.
Yet we chose our own sinful ways.
We broke your commandments,
persecuted your prophets,
forgot your wisdom and,
time after time,
refused to answer your call.

So you spoke an eternal word in a human voice
in Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary, Son of God.
He called and people followed,
leaving every other loyalty.
He set us free to praise your holy name.

But hatred and violence shouted Jesus down.
Betrayed and abandoned and nailed to a cross,
he laid down his life for the world he loved,
and broke the chains of evil and death.
Then you turned our sorrow into joy.
On the third day you raised him up
to lead your people into life.

So we praise you, holy God,
with angels and archangels
and all your faithful people:

People **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.**

Celebrant On the night before he died,
Jesus gathered with his friends
to share a meal and wash their feet,
teaching one more lesson of love.

He took bread and blessed you and broke it.
He gave it to them and said:
“Take this and eat it. This is my body.”

He took a cup of wine and blessed you
and gave it to them.
He said: “Take this and drink it.
This is my blood,
sealing God’s promise to forgive your sins.
Whenever you do this,
do it in memory of me.”

As we share these holy gifts,
we remember the Lord Jesus.

For the love you taught us,
the sacrifice you made for us
and the hope you give us,
we acclaim you, O Christ:

People **Dying you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory.**

Celebrant And now, faithful God,
send us your Spirit to feed us with the body and the blood
of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Make us one body in Christ.
Send us as your messengers in the world
and fill us with energy, courage and love.

Now to you, most holy God,
through Christ your Son and in the Spirit's power,
we bring our worship and our songs of praise:

People **Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant And now as our Savior has taught us, let us pray:

Celebrant and People

Our Lord that is in heaven:

blessed be your name.

Your dominion come:

your will be done

on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us today our next day's bread:

and forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

And leave us not prey to temptation:

but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the dominion: the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread And The Communion

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Taize & Contemplation

Stay With Me

SONG*Stay with me*

WORDS: Matthew 26:38

MUSIC: Berthier

Stay with me, re-main here with me, watch and pray,— watch and pray.

We will observe a few moments of quiet for personal prayer and reflection following the Eucharist. You are invited to pray where you are, light a prayer candle, or move about the space. Deacon Dan is available for healing prayers and anointing during this time.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant 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.
 Give us the will to serve others
 as he was servant of all.

The Stripping of the Altar & Silence

At this time, you are invited to pray in silence.

The Solemn Prayer Over The People

Celebrant Almighty God, we pray graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

You are invited to depart in silence.

We are grateful for our sending parish, The Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, which supports our community through their prayers and the sharing of their resources.

We are grateful for the use of The Trees, graciously provided to us at no cost by St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Durham. We also give thanks to St. Philip's for the gift of flowers and printing. Each Sunday, St. Philip's shares their flowers with The Beloved Community so that we too may enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the ancestral territory of the Eno, the Tuscarora, the Occaneechi, and others.

We are grateful that you are with us. Your presence is a gift to The Beloved Community at the Trees, and that is enough. If you would like to support our community financially, you can do so by leaving your offering in the basket.

The Beloved Community at The Trees

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