

Anglican Parish of Avon



Maundy Thursday Eucharist

Holy Trinity Stratford

Gathering Hymn: ‘A new commandment’ – MP 1

A new commandment I give unto you,
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

By this shall others know that you are My disciples,
if you have love one for another.

By this shall others know that you are My disciples,
if you have love one for another.

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Welcome

Greeting

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins
whose mercy endures for ever.

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

And also with you.

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.

The Confession

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 for self-reflection

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

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Christ, have mercy.

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.

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. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

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. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

The Old Testament Reading

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
neighbour 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.

Exodus 12. 1-14

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

The New Testament 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

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

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.

When he had gone out, 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."

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

Time of silence/meditation on foot washing

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. Amen.

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
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.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to
pray,
**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.**

The Greeting of 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
And also with you.

Hymn: 'The Servant King' – MP 162

1 From heaven You came, helpless babe,
entered our world, Your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give Your life that we might live.
*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

2 There in the garden of tears
my heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' He said.
This is our God, the Servant King...

3 Come see His hands and His feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.
This is our God, the Servant King...

4 So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone Him,
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.
This is our God, the Servant King...

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The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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 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 pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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:

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

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

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit.
If we have died with him, we shall live with him.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

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.

For those unable to receive Holy Communion tonight, you may like to practice the tradition of 'spiritual communion' as you watch and listen, the following prayer may be helpful:

O Lord Jesus Christ, through your tender mercy grant that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so the soul of this your servant may be healed by like faith in you, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive. In union with the faithful at every altar-table in your Church I desire to be united with you and pray that you will come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from your love, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Let us pray,
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. **Amen.**

The Stripping of the Sanctuary

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.

