



Maundy Thursday Home Prayers at Dinner

Set up your worship space at your table and have a candle to light and a simple meal such as bread, cheese, fruit, hummus, olives, and wine (or its substitute) set out. We will give thanks for our food and one another and hear the call to self-giving love before eating.

When you are finished with your meal, you may wish to strip your home in preparation for Good Friday.

As you pray, know that you are praying in the company of Ascension and of all the saints.

Opening

This is the night when Jesus gave himself into the hands of those who would kill him.

This is the night when Jesus gathered the disciples in the upper room.

This is the night that Jesus washed the feet of the Disciples.

This is the night that Jesus gave himself to us in bread and wine, body and blood.

Let us enter this night with clear hearts, confessing our sins to God.

Silence

Psalm 36:6

Your righteousness, O God, is like the mighty mountains.

God have mercy.

Your judgements are like the great deep.

Christ have mercy.

You save animals and humans alike.

God have mercy.

Now the Lord Jesus Christ has been glorified,
and God has been glorified in him.

Now the promise is fulfilled
and love's redeeming work is done.

Now is our salvation
nearer than when we first believed.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

By sharing in Christ's passion may we live with him in glory. Amen.

Please light your candle.

Hymn – Day is Done but Love Unfailing

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0O51JiXUog>)

Day is done, but love unfailing dwells ever here;
Shadows fall but hope, prevailing, calms every fear.
God, our maker, none forsaking,
take our hearts, of love's own making;
Watch our sleeping, guard our waking, be always near.

Dark descends, but light unending shines through our night;
You are with us, ever lending new strength to sight.
One in love, your truth confessing,
one in hope of heaven's blessing,
May we see, in love's possessing, love's endless light!

Eyes will close, but you unsleeping watch by our side;
Death may come, in love's safe keeping still we abide.
God of love, all evil quelling,
sin forgiving, fear dispelling,
Stay with us, our hearts in-dwelling, this eventide.

Gospel Reading – John 13:1-17,31-35

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."

Reflect

Imagine yourself at the table with Jesus that night.

Imagine him kneeling at your feet, towel and basin at hand, gazing up at you with deep love. How does it feel?

Sit with that feeling, whatever it is, and let Jesus wash your feet.

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."

Reflect

Think of your life.

Whose feet are you called to wash?

Intercessions

Add your own prayers in the silence

Holy God,
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.

silence

Loving God, hear us and humble us.

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.
We pray for the unity of your Church.

silence

Loving God, 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.

silence

Loving God, 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.

silence

Loving God, 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.

silence

Loving God, 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.

silence

Loving God, hear us and welcome all your children into paradise. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, pray as our Saviour taught us:

Our Mother/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.

Thanksgiving for Bread and Wine

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has given us bread from the earth. On the night that Jesus gathered with his friends, he took bread and blessed it and shared it with his friends, for God who loves us, feeds us. As God's people ate manna in the wilderness and were satisfied, so we share this bread with Christ, and with one another. May it be for us bread from heaven, strength for our bodies, and balm for our souls, and may it empower us to be Christ's body in this world.

Blessed be God forever.

eat a piece of bread.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who gives us wine, the fruit of the vine and work of human hands. One the night that Jesus gathered with his friends he took wine and he blessed it and shared it with them. May this drink be for us the holy drink of heaven, and may it wash us of sin and quench the thirst of our souls.

Blessed be God forever.

take a drink.

Thanksgiving for the Body of Christ

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has given us one another and joined us into the Body of Christ, a bond that cannot be broken by time or distance. On the night Jesus gathered with his friends, he washed their feet and called them to lives of mutual love and service. May our communion with him and with one another sustain us as we seek to follow his call.

Blessed be God forever.

Supper, Stripping the Table, and the Watch Gospel

Enjoy your supper and when you have finished, prepare your home for the observation of Christ's Passion. Work in silence as much as possible and, when all is ready, read or listen to the Watch Gospel and join Jesus in Gethsemane.

Suggestions for Stripping your Home Table

- Read Psalm 22: 1-5.
- If you have children in the household, discuss the church custom of stripping and washing the altar and what it symbolizes.
- Gather and remove items. Go through the house to gather all icons and religious symbols that can be easily moved (crosses, statues, candles, prayer beads, etc.) Work silently as a sign of respect for the task. Pack these items away in a box or bins. Use dark cloth to drape any other items that are too large or permanent to pack away.

Finally, remove all items from your dining or kitchen table and together wash the table thoroughly. Turn off the lights.

- With only the light of the candle, sit or stand at your bare table as you read the Watch Gospel (Matthew 26:30 to end); or play this recording:

<https://churchoftheascension.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Watch-Gospel.mp3>

At the end, blow out the candle and set it aside to be lit again on Easter morning.

- Wait. Leave the table bare until Easter morning (even if that makes for some awkward meals in the meantime).
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Acknowledgements

This service is adapted from resources found in the Book of Alternative Services, published by the Anglican Church of Canada, and Times and Seasons, and New Patterns for Worship, published by the Church of England, and on www.barefoottheology.com, written by the Rev'd Josephine Robertson.

Suggestions for stripping your home table are adapted from Jerusalem Jackson Greer at www.buildfaith.org

*Additional material is written by the Rev'd Rhonda Waters
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