

Maundy Thursday at Home

A simple, possibly meatless meal is to be preferred. The setting should be straightforward and the foods basic or rustic. Appropriate foods include soup, cheese, olives, dried fruit, nuts, bread or another grain staple, and wine, or juice. It might be helpful to recall at this time that on the frontier churches used whatever fermented beverage was handy, including ciders and beers.

Above all do not make an extra effort for any item, whatever you share will be a blessing to this sacred night.

We offer again a two-part video, available on our YouTube channel for the two parts of this Maundy Thursday worship at home. However, any person or household can practice it without the video. If there are several persons present, one will preside, or you can choose how to divide leadership among yourselves.

The Blessings

At the time appointed, all gather around the table, standing as able.

After a time of silence, the presider offers the following blessings.

Over Wine or Other Beverages

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Over Bread or other Grain Staple

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and you have fed us on our way with the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. Let us be fed again soon with that bread of life. And as grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Over the Other Foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Meal

The meal is now eaten. If several are gathered, they first serve one another, then dine.

The Word and the Prayers

At the end of the meal and clear the table and then continue with the lesson. You may want to divide it up between readers by paragraph.

A reading from the seventeenth chapter of the Gospel of John.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed....

'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

If you choose to do so, consider together the following three questions:

- *What words or phrases leapt out at you?*
- *What is the most important part of this passage?*
- *How has the experience of the last year connect to what Jesus commands us this night?*

The Prayers

United with Christians around the globe on this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the church, the earth, our troubled world, and all in need, responding to each petition with the words Your mercy is great. *A brief silence.*

Blessed are you, holy God, for the church. Gather all the baptized around your presence in the Word. Strengthen the body of your people even when we cannot assemble for worship. Grant Bishop Daniel and all our clergy faithfulness and creativity for their ministry in this time, and accompany those preparing for baptism, confirmation, reception and reaffirmation of faith.

A brief silence. Hear us, holy God. Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, bountiful God, for this good earth and for the flowering of springtime. Save dry lands from destructive droughts. Protect the waters from pollution. Allow in this time the planting of fields for food. Make us into care-givers of your plants and animals.

A brief silence. Hear us, bountiful God. Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, sovereign God, for all nations and peoples. Inspire all to live in peace and accountability. Leach the poison from our minds that assumes strength is shown in intimidation and combat. Grant wisdom and courage to heads of state and to legislators as they face chaos and disasters. Lead all persons of power and influence to champion the cause of the last, the least, and the lost.

A brief silence. **Hear us, sovereign God. Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, faithful God, for you accompany suffering humanity with love. Abide wherever the disease has struck. Visit all who mourn the dead; all who continue to suffer; those who are struggling to obtain the vaccine; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. Support physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization.

A brief silence. **Hear us, faithful God. Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, for you care for the needy. We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. Especially we pray for those we name before you now: *Named aloud, then a brief silence.*

Hear us, gracious God. Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, loving God, that your Son knelt before us, your unworthy servants. Preserve our lives, comfort our anxiety, and receive now the petitions of our hearts.

A longer period of silence.

Hear us, loving God. Your mercy is great.

Blessed are you, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith, whom we name before you here.

A brief silence.

At the end, bring us with them into your everlasting glory.

Hear us, eternal God. Your mercy is great.

Receive, merciful God, our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the host of our meal of life, who died and rose that we might live with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

The following psalm is then said. If there is more than one voice, it is said in unison.

Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place;
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

**So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your Name.**

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,

and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.
**When I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
**My soul clings to you,
your right hand holds me fast.**

Leader The Lord be with you
People **And also with you**
Leader Let us pray.

O God of the crucified and risen One, from whom no trial or trouble can separate us: you feed us with your Word and soothe us with your Spirit, closer to us than breath itself.

Make us glad this night for the life of your servant Jesus;

Make us servants of all for the sake of Jesus;

who for our sake gave his life for the salvation of all.

In the Name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. ***Amen.***

A period of quiet contemplation and working together quietly to wrap up the worship and meal is strongly suggested. Perhaps an evening of near silence and refraining from shallow distractions could end your day.

*If there is a home altar space you have been using,
this would be a good time to clear it away until Easter.*

*Primarily from the Book of Occasional Services 2018, adapted/edited by the Rev. Dr. James Farwell and Dr. Lisa Kimball for use when
Maundy Thursday Eucharist is not possible.*

Prayers adapted from Sundays and Seasons.