

MAUNDY THURSDAY HOME SERVICE

The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin “mandatum,” meaning commandment. It refers to the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples on this day; when they shared their last meal together. Jesus broke bread, washed the disciples’ feet, and told of, even prepared for, his coming crucifixion and betrayal. At the time, the disciples did not realize the significance of this moment, but now we recognize how powerful and special this last supper was. As a result, it is our tradition to celebrate this evening with the gift of worship and the sacrament of Communion.

This year, we are unable to gather together, but through liturgy on video or as you read and share this script in person, we are reminded that God meets us at every table. Every meal we share is a reminder of the holy meal we share during Communion.

SUPPLIES & SET-UP

- Bread and Wine (or any beverage of choice)
- One larger candle (Christ candle),
- One small candle or tealight for each participant.
- Matches or lighter
- Your regular dinner

You should prepare a normal dinner for you, but be sure to include bread and cup. While the service mentions wine you should use whatever beverage makes sense for you. In the ancient world wine was safe (when the water was not) and was a staple. Using a beverage that is a staple of your dinner table is appropriate.

One candle (called the Christ candle) should be placed on the table and lit before the service begins, it will remain lighted throughout.

If possible, a candle should be given to each person present.



PREPARATION

All: We begin by washing, as we were washed in our baptism. We cleanse our hands as we were cleansed in the waters of new birth. We do this not because we are afraid, but because we were commanded to love: and to cleanse our hands, and gather in spirit, is how we love the vulnerable, whom Jesus loved. May we be instruments of love. May the sacrifices we make be for the good of our human family near and far.

Each person present then washes their hands thoroughly with soap and water. Once washed each should help with setting the table as they are able. The food should be set out in the middle with bread and wine and other good things. When all is ready those present take their places at the table.

If a candle is available for each person, they may now take their candle, light it, and place it at their place at the time. They may say the following:

Reader: As Jesus traveled, he spread light wherever he went, light that could not be extinguished. Tonight, I light my candle in honor of [the women who attended him/his mother Mary/the disciples/the crowds who followed him/the lepers he healed/the possessed he freed/the poor/the sick/the woman who anointed him with oil/etc].

Reader: Tonight is a holy night. Tonight, we join with Christians around the world as we remember the last night our Lord spent with his friends. We gather around a table, and with all those who remember tonight. Though we are dispersed, we are together, in spirit and in truth.

Reader: Tonight is about friendship, and love. But not all the stories tonight are happy, because suffering and evil are real. So tonight, we will eat a meal, we will share stories, and we will pray together.

BLESSING OF THE MEAL

The one who blesses the bread takes the bread and holds it where all may see it.

Reader: On the night that Jesus gathered with his friends he took bread and he 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, balm for our souls, and may it empower us to be Christ's body in this world.

The bread is passed around the table for all to take their fill.

The one who blesses the wine [or other beverage] then takes the wine (in a bottle or carafe) and holds it where all may see it.

Reader: On the night that Jesus gathered with his friends he took wine and he blessed it and shared it with them. For the God who made us delights in us, and gives us good gifts to delight our tongues, and give joy to our souls. As Jesus offered the Samaritan woman water that will not fail, so Jesus offers us the same. May this [wine] be for us the holy drink of heaven, and may it wash us of sin and quench the thirst of our souls.

The wine [or other beverage] is then poured out into each person's cup.

All: Holy and lifegiving God, we thank you for the bounty of your Creation laid before us. We ask you to bless it, that it may be to us a holy meal. We give thanks for all those who labored so that it might sustain us, and we ask that through it you would give us the strength to be your good stewards; to care, and tend your creation, and to care especially for our siblings, all the people of this world. Tonight, be with all the members of our community who we love and miss, those who cannot be here with us to share this meal. We ask these things by the grace of Jesus Christ our Brother and the Holy Spirit our friend and guide. Amen.



HYMN: Let Us Break Bread Together



The meal should be enjoyed by all. As feels appropriate the following stories should be read by members of the gathered group while the rest continue their meal. These stories can be scattered throughout the meal as seems appropriate. Conversation and questions are encouraged, for this is a gathering of friends.

THE FIRST STORY

John 2.1-12 **The Wedding at Cana**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there for a few days.

THE SECOND STORY

Matthew 14:13-21 **Feeding the Five Thousand**

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken

pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

THE THIRD STORY

John 13:1-17, 31b-35 **The Last Supper**

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.”

THE FOURTH STORY

(As the meal is concluded and the dishes are still on the table the following is read)

John 18:1-11 **The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “For whom are you looking?” They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am he”, they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, “For whom are you looking?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”



THE VIGIL BEGINS

Reader: Our dinner is over, the waiting begins. Tonight, Jesus was alone, under arrest, and awaiting his death. Tonight, his friends were alone with their guilt, shame, and fear.

Reader: Tonight, we are missing our normal routines, our communities, and friends.

Many are alone, isolated and afraid, Jesus waits with us all tonight, even as we wait with him. Jesus knows what loneliness feels like, what fear tastes like. Jesus

knows the heartbreak of being alone when you want most to be with people you love. Tonight, we hold vigil with the sick, the fearful, the lonely, and with all who risk their own lives to protect and care for ours.

Reader: We are invited to clear away the dishes, and clean up the remains of our meal in silence, and with prayer. Tonight, this table was our church, and this home our sanctuary. Let us cleanse it of all that has come before this moment: of our anxiety, our worry, our sorrow, and our shame.

The table may then be cleared by all present, as each is able. Each person extinguishes their candle.

One person may be designated to read Psalm 31 while the table is cleared. The table is then wiped down with the clean damp cloth, and dried.

Psalm 31

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.

³ Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

⁴ Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,
for you are my refuge.

⁵ Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.

⁶ I hate those who cling to worthless idols;
as for me, I trust in the Lord.

⁷ I will be glad and rejoice in your love,
for you saw my affliction
and knew the anguish of my soul.

⁸ You have not given me into the hands of the enemy
but have set my feet in a spacious place.

⁹ Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress;
my eyes grow weak with sorrow,
my soul and body with grief.

¹⁰ My life is consumed by anguish
and my years by groaning;
my strength fails because of my affliction,
and my bones grow weak.

¹¹ Because of all my enemies,
I am the utter contempt of my neighbors
and an object of dread to my closest friends—
those who see me on the street flee from me.

¹² I am forgotten as though I were dead;
I have become like broken pottery.

¹³ For I hear many whispering,
“Terror on every side!”
They conspire against me
and plot to take my life.

¹⁴ But I trust in you, Lord;
I say, “You are my God.”

¹⁵ My times are in your hands;
deliver me from the hands of my enemies,
from those who pursue me.

¹⁶ Let your face shine on your servant;
save me in your unfailing love.

¹⁷ Let me not be put to shame, Lord,
for I have cried out to you;
but let the wicked be put to shame
and be silent in the realm of the dead.

¹⁸ Let their lying lips be silenced,
for with pride and contempt
they speak arrogantly against the righteous.

¹⁹ How abundant are the good things
that you have stored up for those who fear you,
that you bestow in the sight of all,
on those who take refuge in you.

²⁰ In the shelter of your presence you hide them

from all human intrigues;
you keep them safe in your dwelling
from accusing tongues.
²¹ Praise be to the Lord,
for he showed me the wonders of his love
when I was in a city under siege.

²² In my alarm I said,
“I am cut off from your sight!”
Yet you heard my cry for mercy
when I called to you for help.

²³ Love the Lord, all his faithful people!
The Lord preserves those who are true to him,
but the proud he pays back in full.

²⁴ Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the Lord.

CLOSING PRAYER

Reader: Holy One, draw near to your people this night, wait and watch with us; for our hearts are heavy. Send your holy angels to watch over the sick, and to guide the hands of those who tend to them. And we beseech you, comfort us as a Mother soothes her beloved children. May we watch and wait, strengthened by your presence. Amen.



HYMN: What Wondrous Love



The Christ Candle may be extinguished as we wait in darkness.

Adapted from a service written by The Rev. Josephine Robertson, All Saints Episcopal Church, Bellevue, WA.