



Worship resources

READINGS

The First Reading - Exodus 12: 1-4,
[5-10]11-14

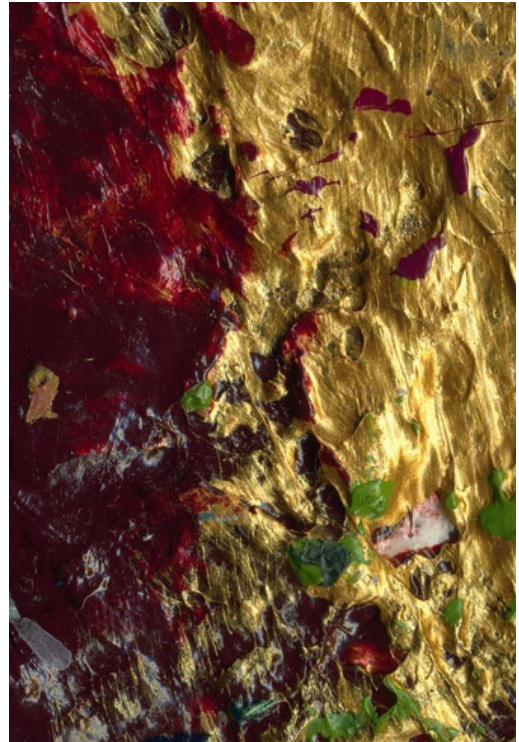
The Psalm - Psalm 116: 1, 10-17

The Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 11:
23-26

The Gospel Reading - John 13: 1-17,
31b-35

[Click here to view the readings](#)

[http://bible.oremus.org/?
show_adj=no&passages=Exodus
%2012:%201-4,%20\[5-10\]11-14%20%0Acw
%20Psalm%20116:%201,%2010-17%0A1%20Corinthians
%2011:%2023-26%0AJohn%2013:%201-17,%2031b-35](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Exodus%2012:%201-4,%20[5-10]11-14%20%0Acw%20Psalm%20116:%201,%2010-17%0A1%20Corinthians%2011:%2023-26%0AJohn%2013:%201-17,%2031b-35)



COLLECTS OF THE DAY

Collect One

Almighty and everlasting God,
who, of thy tender love towards mankind,
hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
to take upon him our flesh,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility;
Mercifully grant,
that we may both follow the example of his patience,

and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Lord,
who in a wonderful sacrament hast left us a memorial of thy passion;
Grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of thy body and blood
that we may perceive within ourselves
the fruits of thy redemption;
who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Almighty and everlasting God,
who, of thy tender love towards mankind,
hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
to take upon him our flesh,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility;
Mercifully grant,
that we may both follow the example of his patience,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect Two

Almighty and everlasting God,
who, in your tender love towards the human race,
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
Grant that we may follow the example
of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Almighty God,
at the Last Supper your Son Jesus Christ
washed the disciples' feet
and commanded them to love one another.
Give us humility and obedience to be servants of others
as he was the servant of all;
who gave up his life and died for us,
yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Lent Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
who, in your tender love towards the human race,
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
Grant that we may follow the example
of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Almighty God,
at the Last Supper your Son Jesus Christ
washed the disciples' feet
and commanded them to love one another.
Give us humility and obedience to be servants of others
as he was the servant of all;
who gave up his life and died for us,
yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 1

On this holy night we dine together as the body of Christ, and at the table
commit ourselves to love and serve one another. On this holy night, then, let
us pray for the church and all humankind.

God our provider, you feed us with the bread of life and lift for us the cup of
salvation, on this night Jesus gave us this holy feast:

may all who gather at your table receive a foretaste of the eternal banquet.

God of love
grant our prayer.

Servant God, on this night Jesus washed his disciples' feet: may we follow
this example of love and service.

God of love
grant our prayer.

God of compassion, on this night Jesus prayed for those who would believe
through the message of the disciples: may those who gathered on this day to
renew their ordination vows so live what they proclaim that all may come to
know your saving love.

God of love
grant our prayer.

God of renewal, on this day oil was consecrated for use in baptism and
healing: we pray for all who will be anointed with these holy oils, for the sick,
and for those preparing for baptism.

God of love
grant our prayer.

God our companion, we pray for those unable to eat at the Lord's Table or at any other table, for those who betray and for those betrayed, and for all innocent victims.

God of love
grant our prayer.

God of hope, remember all those in need, especially those we silently hold before you now ...

God of love
grant our prayer.

Holy God,
you give us this meal of bread and wine
in which we celebrate your great compassion;
grant that we may work with you to fulfil our prayers,
and to love and serve others as Christ has loved us;
this we ask through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who is alive with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 2

[Prayers of the People](#), Maundy Thursday, General intercessions for Sundays and Feasts, by Ormonde Plater, Archdeacon of the [Anglican/Episcopal] Diocese of Louisiana.

members.cox.net/oplater/IntercessionABC-MaundyThur.pdf

POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation.
Give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

Lord Jesus Christ,
in this wonderful sacrament
you have given us a memorial of your passion.
Grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries

of your body and blood
that we may know within ourselves
the fruits of your redemption,
for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

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

PRAYERS

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

God of the covenant,
as we celebrate the beginning of the paschal feast,
we come to the table of the Lord
in whom we have salvation, life, and resurrection.
Renew the power of this mystery
in our service to one another and to you,
so that with Christ we may pass from this life
to the glory of your kingdom. Amen.

Let us offer our prayers
for the needs of the church and the world
to God who has given us new life
in Christ's passage through death.
By the blood of the covenant
and the waters of baptism, O God,
you cleansed us from sin and made us one in Christ.
Receive these prayers that, by the power of your Spirit,

we may love our brothers and sisters
even as Christ has loved us. Amen.

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal
your son established a new covenant for all people,
and in the washing of feet
he showed us the dignity of service.
Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these signs of our life in faith
may speak again to our hearts,
feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies. Amen.

SERMON

Any liturgy has at its heart a sacrificial action. We offer something, and God takes that offering and does something wonderful with it, something we cannot do for ourselves.

**Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 ; Psalm 116:1, 10-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;
John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

This is a day focused on liturgy: very basic and profound liturgical actions are recalled and acted out. Any liturgy has at its heart a sacrificial action. We offer something, and God takes that offering and does something wonderful with it, something we cannot do for ourselves.

In the Exodus reading for today, the focus is on the first Passover, a deliverance from the tenth plague – a horrible plague that killed the first-born males in every household, except those who lived where the blood of a lamb had been spread upon the lintels of the household door. That was followed by the actual deliverance of the people from bondage in Egypt into the freedom of the Promised Land. This sacred text is read at every Passover feast in a liturgical setting as a profound reminder of a how a liberating and loving God delivers us from bondage, and even death itself.

The reading from Corinthians sets forth the form of the Eucharist, and reminds us all that bread and wine, offered along with “ourselves, our souls and bodies,” as it says in the Holy Eucharist, Rite One, are taken by God, made holy and received by us as the body and blood of Christ, a liturgical born-again experience that transforms us over and over into more of what God desires us to be.

The gospel reading from John focuses on another ancient liturgical rite, that of foot washing. Awkward for some, even distasteful, this solemn act included in the Maundy Thursday liturgy causes us to bow the knees of our hearts. As we slowly and solemnly wash one another's feet, one cannot help but feel the sense of humility accompanied by the ancient tradition – a humility that is not intended to shame, but to assure us that God loves us so much that the Son of God stoops to wash our feet, turning all our concepts of higher and lower, above and below, inequality and equity, into a new reality of love and affection. "Love one another, as I have loved you."

There is something about this sacred day that sets it apart – something deeply transforming. We're not merely remembering the night before Jesus died, we are actually living it through liturgy. The flash of insight as we are connected with the Passover of our Jewish sisters and brothers, the solemn washing of the feet, the taking of the bread and the cup, these experiences leave us with a depth of meaning that goes beyond words, as all good liturgy does. The readings and liturgy work in harmony to bring us to that last night. Then, as the altar is stripped and prepared for Good Friday, we transition from the most intimate liturgical moment to the absence of God. What can we do but leave silently and go to our homes?

As we leave our places of worship, the words of Jesus remain in our hearts: "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."

What we have just done is act out the boundaries of that new commandment – boundaries that expand rather than restrict our vision: perhaps we have washed the feet of someone with whom we have had a disagreement, or a person who is an ex-con trying to work out a new life after prison; perhaps we have sat and watched an older person wash the feet of a teenager. These are only glimpses of what that love looks like. The living out of this loving one another as I have loved you comes through a community of believers that sets aside its own agenda to help others, that allows its buildings to be used by people who need a safe place to meet, a community that practices radical hospitality to strangers, aliens, undocumented immigrants, the poor, and those who have no helper.

Maundy Thursday gives us liberation, freedom, and grace to become a new community, not one centered merely on liturgy that remembers, but one centered on liturgy that leads us to act. If we see Christ crucified and risen from the dead, then our lives are transformed forever. If we believe Christ

offers himself on the cross as the ultimate act of love, then we can see ourselves as called to act on behalf of others.

So, renewed by this profound night of liturgy, and transformed by Jesus' taking upon himself the passion of his love for us, there is nothing to do but leave behind the things that bind us: fear of the unknown, distrust of those unlike ourselves, wariness of others who will come to us, and our own feelings of inadequacy. When we are called by the new commandment, we are given the liberation from those fears and the strength to respond. Whatever we do because of this day will transform someone's life as well as our own. Whatever action we take to love one another takes us one step closer to the redemption of the world. Whatever we risk of our own comfort and tranquility will be used by God to restore others who are lost and broken.

— Ben Helmer, Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

["The journey from head to heart,"](http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2013/03/11/maundy-thursday-abc-2013/) the Rev. Anjel Scarborough, *Sermons that Work*, Episcopal Digital Network
<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2013/03/11/maundy-thursday-abc-2013/>

["The journey from head to heart,"](http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2013/03/11/maundy-thursday-abc-2013/) the Rev. Anjel Scarborough, *Sermons that Work*, Episcopal Digital Network
<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2013/03/11/maundy-thursday-abc-2013/>

[The Perfect Example to Follow,](http://www.sermonsuite.com/freebk.php?i=788039408&key=nMkyAzr47vyalpx)
For Maundy Thursday by John W. Clarke from SermonSuite.
[http://www.sermonsuite.com/freebk.php?
i=788039408&key=nMkyAzr47vyalpx](http://www.sermonsuite.com/freebk.php?i=788039408&key=nMkyAzr47vyalpx)

[The Lectionary Lab,](http://www.lectionarylab.com/2012/03/year-b-maundy-thursday.html) Maundy Thursday, the Rev'ds Dr. John Fairless and Delmer Chilton (aka "Two Bubbas and a Bible")
<http://www.lectionarylab.com/2012/03/year-b-maundy-thursday.html>.

CHILDREN

[Worshiping with Children,](#) Holy or Maundy Thursday, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown,

MAUNDY THURSDAY 13th April 2017

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2012/01/year-b-holy-or-maundy-thursday-april-5.html>

[Worshiping with Children](#), Holy or Maundy Thursday, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2014/02/year-holy-or-maundy-thursday-april-17.html>

[Childrens Sermon](#), Maundy Thursday, *Faith Formation Journeys*

<http://faithformationjourneys.blogspot.co.uk/2012/03/childrens-sermon-maundy-thursday-year-b.html>

[Celebrating Holy Week with Kids](#), Christine Sine, Godspace

godspace-msa.com/2015/03/25/celebrating-holy-week-with-kids-resources-for-2015/

[Ragman](#) -- Children's sermon by B. Kathleen Fannin based on John 13:1-17, 31b-35 from SermonSuite.

<http://www.sermonsuite.com/free.php?i=788022861&key=ZYx8ltp2keixilx>