

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**9 April 2020**

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**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Our Lord Jesus Christ says, "If you love me keep my commandments". (John 14:15) "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me". (John 13:8) Let us confess to Almighty God our sins against His love, and ask Him to cleanse us.

**C:** **Eternal Father, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against You and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded Your love, and marred Your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out of darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God has had mercy upon you, He has pardoned you and delivered you from all your sin through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**KYRIE**

**C:** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the holy one, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

**COLLECT**

**P:** God our Father, You have invited Your Church to proclaim Jesus' death until He comes again. May we know and experience His presence as He unites us in love; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**GOSPEL READING – John 13:1-15**

**P:** Almighty Father, whose Son Jesus Christ taught us that what we do for the least of our brethren we do also for Him; give us the will to be the servant of others as He was the servant of all, who gave up His life and died for us, and yet is alive and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**P:** Father, on this the night Jesus was betrayed; He washed His disciples' feet. We commit ourselves to follow His example of love and service. Lord, hear us,

**C:** **and humble us.**

**P:** On this night, Jesus prayed for His disciples to be one. We pray for the unity of Your Church. Lord, hear us,

**C:** **and unite us in Christ.**

**P:** On this night, Jesus prayed for those who would come to faith through the proclamation of the Gospel. We pray for the mission of Your Church. Lord, hear us,

**C:** **and renew our zeal.**

**P:** On this night, Jesus commanded us to love, but suffered rejection Himself. We pray for the rejected and unloved. Lord, hear us,

**C:** **and fill us with Your compassion.**

**P:** On this night, Jesus told us that if the world hated us that it hated Him first. We pray for those who are persecuted for Your name's sake. Lord, hear us,

**C:** **and give Your peace.**

**P:** Most merciful Lord, Your love compels us to come to You. Our hands are unclean; our hearts unprepared; we are not fit to eat the crumbs that fall from Your table. But You, O Lord, welcome and forgive repentant sinners. Grant that soon we will once again be cleansed and fed with the precious body and blood of Jesus Christ. We long for the day that we, with the whole company of those in Christ, may sit and eat in Your kingdom. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **HYMN**

### **"Go To Dark Gethsemane"**

- 1. Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power,  
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**
- 2. Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.**
- 3. Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at His feet,  
Mark that miracle of time. God's own sacrifice complete,  
"It is finished!" hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

## **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly:

prayer in Gethsemane

betrayal by Judas

arrest, mock trial, painful beating

the trudge to Golgotha and execution

As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolize His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when He suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in sending His Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand.

Our altar is in the form of a table. It is here where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade; materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

