**Unfolding the Word on Maundy Thursday**

***Preparation***

O Lord, open our lips; and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Give us the joy of your saving help, and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

You have called us in righteousness. Let us respond with justice.

Eternal God, source of all blessing, help us to worship you with all our heart and mind and

strength; for you alone are God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Out of the depths I have called to you, Lord. Let your ears be open to hear my voice.

**My hope is in God’s word.**

If you recorded all our sins who could come before you?

**My hope is in God’s word.**

There is forgiveness with you: therefore you shall be feared.

**My hope is in God’s word.**

My soul is longing for the Lord, more than those who watch for daybreak.

**My hope is in God’s word.**

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy.

**My hope is in God’s word.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**My hope is in God’s word.**

*verses from Psalm 141*

HYMN

An upper room did our Lord

prepare for those he loved until

the end: and his disciples still

gather there, to celebrate their

risen friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:

to share his bread, his loving cup;

whatever burdens may bow us

down, he by his cross shall lift us

up.

And after supper he washed their

feet for service, too, is sacrament.

In him our joy shall be made

complete – sent out to serve, as he

was sent.

No end there is! We depart in

peace, he loves beyond his

uttermost:

in ev’ry room in our Father’s house

he will be there, as Lord and host.

*Fred Pratt Green (b.1903)*

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We have kept silent when we should have spoken.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have spoken when we should have kept silent.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have been guilty of denial and betrayal.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us

to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

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 the Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again in our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies. **Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Word***

FIRST READING

1 Corinthians 11.23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This

is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in

remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

PSALM 116.1, 10-end

I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication; ♦

because he inclined his ear to me on the day I called to him.

How shall I repay the Lord ♦ for all the benefits he has given to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation ♦ and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦ in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord ♦ is the death of his faithful servants.

O Lord, I am your servant, ♦ your servant, the child of your handmaid;

you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving ♦ and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦ in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the house of the Lord, ♦ in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. **Amen.**

SECOND READING

John 13:1-17, 31b-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.’

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. When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘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.’

MEDITATION

‘The soul must live in hope.’

*Beatrijs of Nazareth (1200-1268), Seven Manners of Living*

Where do we need nourishment and hope this hour? This week?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore

God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is

Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

HYMN

Precious Lord, take my hand,

lead on, let me stand,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

through the storm, through the

night, lead me on to the light,

take my hand, precious Lord,

lead me on.

When my way grows drear,

precious Lord, linger near,

when my life is almost gone:

hear my cry, hear my call,

hold my hand, lest I fall,

take my hand, precious Lord,

lead me on.

When the darkness appears

and the night draws near,

and the day is past and gone;

at the river I stand,

guide my feet, hold my hand,

take my hand, precious Lord,

lead me on.

*Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993)*

***The Prayers***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father through Christ the saviour of the world.

Father, 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.

**Lord, hear us and humble us.**

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

**Lord, 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.

**Lord, 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.

**Lord, 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.

**Lord, 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.

**Lord, hear us and welcome all your children into paradise.**

*We pray in silence.*

COLLECT

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,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Standing at the foot of the cross, let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.**

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*When circumstances are such that we cannot share in the Eucharist in person, we can still make an Act of Spiritual Communion, in which we express our faith in Christ and in His Presence in the Eucharist, and we ask Him to unite Himself with us.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the one true vine. I believe that you are truly present

in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. I seek you. I worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you will come into my heart and soul, that I may be united to you, by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.

Let me receive you, and be nourished by you. Become for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. **Amen.**

HYMN

Praise to the Holiest in the height,

And in the depth be praise,

In all his words most wonderful,

Most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!

When all was sin and shame,

A second Adam to the fight

And to the rescue came.

O wisest love! That flesh and blood

Which did in Adam fail,

Should strive afresh against the foe,

Should strive and should prevail.

And that a higher gift than grace

Should flesh and blood refine,

Gods presence and his very self

And essence all divine.

And in the garden secretly,

And on the cross on high,

Should teach his brethren, and inspire

To suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,

And in the depth be praise,

In all his words most wonderful,

Most sure in all his ways.

*St John Henry Newman (1801-1890)*

***The Conclusion***

When the disciples had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed to the Father, ‘If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me.’ He said to his disciples, ‘How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinners.’