



LANCASTER PRIORY

The Eucharist of the Last Supper

Maundy Thursday

28 March 2024

Welcome to Lancaster Priory.

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day are known as the Triduum: the Three Great Days, and they take us into the heart of the mystery of faith.

Maundy Thursday is the day on which we remember Jesus and his friends gathered together for the last supper. The meal, which would have been part of the great Jewish celebration of the Passover, would have been festal in tone, as well as quite solemn at times. This is why we wear white on Maundy Thursday, and also why we sing the Gloria for the first time since the beginning of Lent. Jesus and his disciples share a meal together, with plenty of wine and food. And during it, something extraordinary happened. Removing his robe, Jesus washed his disciples' feet. They protested at this, as some people have ever since, but Jesus reminded them that the call to serve others, which we all share, is a call also to allow ourselves to be served. We need to learn the ways of humility. For centuries after that first Maundy Thursday, kings, emperors and Christian leaders have all washed feet, to encourage in the communities that they serve a real sense of Christian humility. We shall follow in the line of many great Christians.

After the Eucharist has ended the mood changes suddenly. In heart and mind we go with Jesus to the garden of Gethsemane - the flowers on the altar of repose (in the Regimental Chapel) and the sacrament remind us of that garden and of Jesus' presence with us. We wait with Jesus for the rest of the evening. The main door will be open for you to come and go as you please.

This service is sung by the Priory Choir, conducted by Dr Rebekah Okpoti, Director of Music and accompanied by Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist.

Setting: Missa Brevis (Stopford)

Preacher: Rt Revd Julie Conalty, *Bishop of Birkenhead and Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Blackburn.*

Throughout this booklet you will find instructions regarding posture (sit and stand), these capture what is normal for our congregation but are not intended to be restrictive for those who may need to sit or not sit for too long.

Acknowledgements

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Processional Hymn (T.296i) *We stand to sing. The choir, servers and clergy enter and the altar is censed.*

God, whose love is reigning o'er us,
source of all, the ending true;
hear the universal chorus
raised in joyful praise to you:
alleluia, alleluia,
worship ancient, worship new.

2. Word of God from nature bringing
springtime green and autumn gold;
mountain streams like children singing,
ocean waves and thunder bold:
alleluia, alleluia,
as creation's tale is told.

3. Holy God of ancient glory,
choosing man and woman too;
Abram's faith and Sarah's story
formed a people bound to you.
Alleluia, alleluia,
to your covenant keep us true.

4. Covenant, new again in Jesus,
starchild born to set us free;
sent to heal us, sent to teach us
how love's children we might be.
Alleluia, alleluia,
risen Christ, our Saviour he!

5. Lift we then our human voices
in the songs that faith would bring;
live we then in human choices
lives that, like our music sing:
alleluia, alleluia,
joined in love our praises ring!

Words *W B Grove & J Goss*
G Martin 1844-1916

The Greeting *The president says*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

The president introduces the celebration.

Prayers of Penitence *The deacon introduces the confession.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ says: 'If you love me, keep my commandments.' 'Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.' Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love, and ask him to cleanse us.

Silence is kept.

When we take our ease rather than watch with you:
Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we bestow a kiss of peace yet nurse enmity in our hearts:
Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we strike at those who hurt us rather than stretch out our hands to bless:
Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we deny that we know you for fear of the world and its scorn:
Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

The president prays 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.**

Gloria *The choir sings*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you.
We give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: have mercy on us.
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.

The Collect *The president says 'Let us pray' and silence is kept.*

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 First Reading Exodus 12.1-4 [5-10] 11-14 *Please sit.*

A reading from the Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you

the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance. For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn (LP31) *Please stand to sing.*

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through

5. When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard b. 1953

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 11.23-26 *Please sit.*

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians.

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. For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand as the cantor sings*

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: Love one another as I have loved you. **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Gospel Reading John 13.1-17, 31b-35

The deacon says The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.’ This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon *Please sit.*

The Washing of Feet *The president introduces the ceremony of the Foot-Washing.*

Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by authority, or even miracle, but by such lowly service. We all need to remember his example, but none stand more in need of this reminder than those whom the Lord has called to the ordained ministry.

Therefore, I invite you who have been appointed as representatives of the congregation, and who share in the royal priesthood of Christ, to come forward, that we who wash your feet may recall whose servants we are by following the example of our Master. But come remembering his admonition that what will be done for you is also to be done to others, for ‘a servant is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.’

*The president washes the feet of representatives of the Priory community.
During the foot-washing the choir sings Wash me thoroughly (Wesley)*

At the end the president prays

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

This response is used Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

And at the end Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand. The president says*

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The deacon says Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn (T. 70i) *During which the gifts of the people are gathered and presented. The altar is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

'Prepare a room for me,
your Saviour, Host and Priest,
where I may gather you, my friends,
to celebrate the feast.'

2 'This room we have prepared;
the table now is set.
We wait your promised presence, Lord,
where we once more are met.'

3 'Where even two or three
have come the Meal to share,
unseen, but living, loving still,
I surely will be there!'

4 'Lord Christ, we seek the food
your grace alone can give.
We come with empty, hungering hearts
that we may eat and live.'

5 'My promise I will keep;
your hunger will be fed,
for in this meal I offer you
myself, the living Bread!'

6 'All thanks and praise to you,
our Saviour, Lord and Friend,
that through this Loaf and Cup you share
your love that has no end!'

Words *H G Stuempfle, Jr. 1923-2007*

The Eucharistic Prayer *The president says*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right to give you thanks, Father most holy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For on this night he girded himself with a towel and, taking the form of a servant, washed the feet of his disciples. He gave us a new commandment that we should love one another as he has loved us. Knowing that his hour had come, in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples to be a memorial of his passion, that we might proclaim his death until he comes again, and feast with him in his kingdom. Therefore earth unites with heaven to sing a new song of praise; we too join with angels and archangels as they proclaim your glory without end:

The choir sings

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The president continues

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On this, the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

The Deacon says Jesus Christ is Lord: **Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer *We pray together in our preferred version or language.*

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, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread *The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup:
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Giving of Communion

The president invites the congregation to receive Holy Communion.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Agnus Dei *The choir sings*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

The priest and people receive communion. We welcome communicant members of all Christian denominations to receive communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please carry this booklet with you. Gluten-free hosts are available, please indicate this to the president, green cards are available from the sidespeople for this purpose.

Communion Anthem Call to Remembrance (Farrant), Tantum Ergo (Stanford)

Hymn (NEH 268 t.202) *During which the president takes the remaining consecrated bread to the altar of repose in the Regimental Chapel.*

Of the glorious body telling,
O my tongue, its mysteries sing,
And the blood, all price excelling,
Which the world's eternal King,
In a spotless womb once dwelling,
Shed for this world's ransoming.

2. Given for us, for us descending,
Of a virgin to proceed,
Man with man in converse blending,
Scattered he the gospel seed,
Till his sojourn drew to ending,
Which he closed in wondrous deed.

3. At the last great supper lying
Circled by his chosen band,
Duly with the law complying,
First he finished its command,
Then, immortal food supplying,
Gave himself by his own hand.

4. Word-made-flesh, by word he maketh
Bread his very flesh to be;
Man in wine Christ's blood partaketh:
And if senses fail to see,
Faith alone the true heart waketh
To behold the mystery.

Words St Thomas Aquinas 1227-74

Tr. J M Neale 1818-66

At the altar of repose, the president prays

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament you have given us the memorial of your passion: grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives the fruit of your redemption, for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Stripping of the Sanctuary *Psalm 22*

The choir sings while the altars are stripped.

The Watch of Prayer

The church remains in silence.

Those who wish to share in the Watch go to the Regimental Chapel when ready.

The main door will be open for you to come and go as you please until the end. We will read the gospel on the arrest of Jesus at the end of the watch (11.55pm).