



Holy Communion and Vigil for Maundy Thursday

Opening sentence

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

Opening hymn

Gathering

Jesus invites us to a way of celebration,
meeting and feasting with the humble and poor:

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus beckons us to a way of risk,
letting go of our security:

Let us walk his way with trust.

Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices
of those who have nothing to lose:

Let us walk his way with compassion.

Jesus points us to a way of self-giving,
where power and status are overturned:

Let us walk his way with humility.

Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross,
where despair is transformed by the promise of new life:

Let us walk his way with faith.

Reconciliation

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and
contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come to God, who is full of compassion, and
acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**O God, you have searched us out and known us,
and all that we are is open to you.**

**We confess that we have sinned:
we have used our power to dominate
and our weakness to manipulate;
we have evaded responsibility
and failed to confront evil;
we have denied dignity to ourselves
and to our sisters and brothers.**

We sing:

**Lord, have mercy on us
Hear us as we pray;
Lord, have mercy on us,
Take all sin away.**

**Christ, have mercy on us,
Hear our heartfelt plea;
Christ, have mercy on us,
Set our spirits free.**

(Repeat first verse)

2-minute silence, begun & ended by the sounding of a bell

We turn to you, O God:

**we renounce evil;
we claim your love;
we choose to be made whole.**

Forgiveness

Jesus said:

'I came not to judge the world, but to save it.'

And St John says:

'Having loved his own who were in the world,
he loved them to the end.'

In Christ, we are loved and we are forgiven.
Sisters and brothers, Christ sets you free:
journey on with hope.

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for the Day

We say together:

**Christ, whose feet were caressed
with perfume and a woman's hair;
you humbly took basin and towel
and washed the feet of your friends.
Wash us also in your tenderness
as we touch one another:
that, embracing your service freely,
we may accept no other bondage
in your name. Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

First reading

At the end of the first reading the reader says:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn

The Gospel

Before the Gospel reading the reader says:

The Gospel reading is from John 13.1–17, 31b–35.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel reading the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Footwashing

We gather into small groups of four or five. Each group has a bowl of warm water and a towel. With music playing, we wash each other's feet.

Affirmation of Faith *[said]*

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We share a sign of Peace and gather round the altar.

The minister explains how Jesus shared bread and wine with his friends at the Last Supper.

The Preparation of the Gifts

The minister thanks God for the bread and wine and for ourselves. At the end of each prayer we say together:

Blessed be God for ever.

Thanksgiving Prayer

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Open up your hearts.

We open them to God.

Let us give thanks to the God of all.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

We sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of heaven and earth adored,
Ceasing never, God for ever,
Holy, holy Lord.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voices to join in the prayer that Christ taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

O God in heaven,

**Mother and Father of us all,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

Amen.

Breaking the Bread

The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

O Lamb of God

We sing (to the tune of Greensleeves):

**O Lamb of God, you take away our sin:
have mercy upon us. [$\times 2$]**

Jesus, you take away our sin:

O give us all your peace.

Jesus, you take away our sin:

Give peace for ever.

Invitation

The minister invites all to receive Communion.

The Communion

As each person receives the bread and wine:

The body of Christ, the bread of life: **Amen**

The blood of Christ, the cup of blessing: **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.**

Amen.

Final hymn

Stripping the Altar

Music is played while we strip the altar and clear the church. Hanging pictures are taken down and placed with their faces to the wall; the large memorial panel is covered with sheeting.

We then sing repeatedly:

**Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

The Vigil

Watching with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Silence is kept after each pair of readings.

John 13.16–30 • Psalm 113

John 13.31–38 • Psalm 114

John 14.1–14 • Psalm 115

John 14.15–end • Psalm 116.1–9

John 15.1–17 • Psalm 116.10–end

John 15.18–16.4a • Psalm 117

John 16.4b–15 • Psalm 118.1–9

John 16.16–33 • Psalm 118.10–18

John 17.1–19 • Psalm 118.19–end

John 17.20–end

Silence

The Gospel of the Watch is read:

Mark 14.12–42

Silence