

THE THREE DAYS

Every Sunday in worship the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. On several key days at the center of the church year, however, worship takes a particular shape. These central days have come to be known as the Three Days, recalling Jesus' own words to his disciples that he would be handed over to death, and that "after three days he will rise again" (Mark 10:34). The Three Days encompass the time from Maundy Thursday evening through the evening of Easter Day. In particular, the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter unfold in a single movement, as the church each year makes the passage with Christ through death into life.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

1250–1300; Middle English maunde < Old French mande < Latin mandātum command, mandate (from the opening phrase novum mandātum (Vulgate) of Jesus' words to the disciples after He had washed their feet).

GATHERING

ORGAN PRELUDE: Ubi Caritas (#642) arr. R. Dubois

TOLLING THE BELL

The bell tolls three times indicating the start of the three days.

P The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Oh Lord, Hear My Prayer No. 751

Invitation to confession

In this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil - all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us, because of his love for us through Jesus, our Saviour. Within the community of his Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example the Lord gave us on the night before his death. It is, however, in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love.

Remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. The Eucharist is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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All kneel or sit and keep silence for reflection and self-examination. The presiding minister leads the assembly in the confession.

P God who is rich in mercy ...

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

INDIVIDUAL ABSOLUTION

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People may come forward and kneel for the laying on of hands.

HYMN During the Laying on of hands: God loved the World #605

P In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

C Amen.

When all have returned to their seats, the assembly stands.

Greeting Pg. 259

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

P We pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O Lord Jesus Christ, since you have left us a memorial of your suffering and death in the mystery of your holy sacrament: Grant that we may so receive your body and blood that the fruits of your redemption may continually be revealed in us; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

READINGS Pg. 260

P God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING Exodus 12:1-14

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19: Sung

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Pg. 103

GOSPEL

John 13:1-17

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Consecrates the Humblest Act

No. 360

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *The assembly stands*.

- A On this holy day, we pray for the church and the world, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- A For the whole church of God, that it may grow in unity and servanthood: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For our congregation, that in these holy days we may grow in love for one another and for all people: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For those who will be baptized at Easter, that they may rejoice in their passage through death into new life: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For all the leaders and people of the world, that reconciliation and peace may overcome conflict and oppression: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For the hungry in body or spirit, that they may be fed: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For the sick and those in pain, for the lonely and the forgotten, for the dying and all who mourn, that they may know the full extent of God's love for them: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A In thanksgiving for the saints and martyrs and for all the faithful departed who join us at your table of grace: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O God, into your love we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

PEACE Pg. 261

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

P God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful No. 182

The table is set.

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands.

A We pray. Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us; our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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PREFACE FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Pg. 108

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (IV)

WORD OF INSTITUTION (I)

LORD'S PRAYER (Version II)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

LAMB OF GOD Pg. 112

COMMUNION

Assistants and those in need commune first.

COMMUNION HYMN:

Stay with Me (repeated until communion is finished) No. 348

THE TABLE BLESSING *The assembly stands*.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

An assisting minister prays the prayer after communion.

A We pray.

A brief silence is kept.

Lord God, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittus (sung)

Pg 113

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Lights are dimmed as the worship space is stripped.

Psalm 88 is said by a cantor (Rick) as the stripping of the altar occurs.

Those watching sit or kneel.

The sacramental elements and vessels, linens, paraments, banners, and books are removed from the worship space.

There is no benediction.

All depart in silence.

The service continues at 10:30 tomorrow morning.



GOOD FRIDAY

All return to gather in silence.

The assembly stands when the ministers stand. The presiding minister begins with the prayer of the day.

P Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

Please be Seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM The psalm for the day is sung.

Psalm 22

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:16-25

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Choir: O Lord, Be Gracious by G. Dengler

GOSPEL

John 18:1—19:42

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Please as you are able:

- Sit for the narration of the arrest denial and trial.
- Stand for the narration of the crucifixion.
- Kneel or sit after the death.
- Then stand for the conclusion for the narration.

John 18

HYMN Ah, Holy Jesus

No. 349

John 19: 1:27

HYMN What Wondrous Love is This (Verses 1,2)

No. 666

John 19:28-42

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Sacred Head Now Wounded Verses 1-3

No. 351

THE BIDDING PRAYERS

A We pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father guide it and gather it together, so that we may worship him in peace and tranquility.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (42)

C Amen.

A We pray for our pastors, all servants of the Church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our pastors and our leaders; keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church, and help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (43)

C Amen.

A We pray for those preparing for Baptism, that God make them responsive to his love, and give them new life in Jesus Christ. *Silent prayer*.

P Almighty and eternal God, you continually bless the Church with new members. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for Baptism. Give them a new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (44)

C Amen.

A We pray for all our brothers and sisters who share our faith in Jesus Christ, that God may gather and keep together in one Church all those who know Christ as Lord.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you give your Church its unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. We are all consecrated to you by our Baptism; make us one in the fullness of faith, and keep us one in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (45)

C Amen.

A We pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the Word of God, that they may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. *Silent prayer*.

P Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and his posterity. Hear the prayers of your Church that the people you first made your own may arrive with us at the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (46)

C Amen.

A We pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way of salvation.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the Gospel. Help us, your people, to grow in love for one another, to grasp more fully the mystery of your Godhead, and so to become more perfect witnesses of your love in the sight of all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (47)

C Amen.

A We pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may find him who is the author and goal of our existence.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all might long to know you and have peace in you. Grant that, in spite of the hurtful things that stand in their way, they may all recognize in the lives of Christians the tokens of your love and mercy, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God and Father of us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (48)

C Amen.

A We pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, watch over those in authority, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (49)

C Amen.

A We pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger, and disease.

Silent prayer.

P Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. (50)

C Amen.

The bidding prayer concludes:

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P Finally, we pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask:

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, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

A large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly.

- A Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Saviour of the whole world.
- C Oh, come, let us worship him.
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- C Oh, come, let us worship him.

The assembly may be seated.

PERIOD OF SILENCE

SOLEMN REPROACHES

- A O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

A nail is pounded.

- A Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way; I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

A nail is pounded.

- A I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate; I guided you with the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

A nail is pounded.

- A I planted you as my fairest vine, but you have brought forth biter fruit; I made you branches of the vine and never left your side, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

A nail is pounded.

- A O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me! I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink; I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

A nail is pounded.

- A O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me! I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns; I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

A nail is pounded.

- A I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed; I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

A nail is pounded.

- A I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

A nail is pounded.

- A O my people, O my church, what more could I have down for you? Answer me! I lifted you up to the heights, then you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

A nail is pounded.

- A I grafted you into my people Israel, and you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

A nail is pounded.

- A I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.
- C Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

A nail is pounded.

After a brief silence, the presiding minister continues. Please stand as you are able.

- P We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
- C By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
- P If we have died with him, we shall also live with him.
- C If we endure, we shall also reign with him.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, we pray to set your passion, cross and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death.

Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your Holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN Christ, the Life of all the Living

No. 345

Vestments are left at the cross.

Presiding ministers venerate the cross and leave first.

Then as you are ready you may depart in silence.

As others are contemplating the Cross, Please refrain from conversation.

As you are leaving, it is customary to come to the large cross, and to make a sign of reverence.

Reverencing the cross may also include actions such as:

- pausing before the cross,
- bowing
- kneeling before it for prayer
- touching it