## Thursday, April 18, 2019Maundy Thursday, Year C

### Introduction

With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus’ commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord’s table we remember Jesus’ sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

### Prayer of the Day

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

[**Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14**](https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2019-4-18/0)

The passover of the Lord

[**Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**](https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2019-4-18/0)

I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. (Ps. 116:13)

[**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**](https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2019-4-18/0)

Proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes

[**John 13:1-17, 31b-35**](https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2019-4-18/0)

The service of Christ: footwashing and meal

### First Reading: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God’s people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord’s supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God’s people from sin and death.

1The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 2This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3Tell 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. 4If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. [5Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. 7They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 9Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. 10You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ] 11This 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. 12For 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 judgments: I am the Lord. 13The 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.
  14This 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.

### Psalm: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

*I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.*(Ps. 116:13)

 1I love the Lord, who has | heard my voice,
  and listened to my | supplication,
 2**for the Lord has given | ear to me**
  **whenev- | er I called.**
 12How shall I re- | pay the Lord
  for all the good things God has | done for me?
 13**I will lift the cup | of salvation**
  **and call on the name | of the Lord. R**
 14I will fulfill my vows | to the Lord
  in the presence of | all God’s people.
 15**Precious in your | sight, O Lord,**
  **is the death | of your servants.**
 16O Lord, truly I | am your servant;
  I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.
 17**I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving**
  **and call upon the name | of the Lord.**
 18I will fulfill my vows | to the Lord
  in the presence of | all God’s people,
 19**in the courts of | the Lord‘s house,**
  **in the midst of you, | O Jerusalem. R**

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In the bread and cup of the Lord’s supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another, because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ’s death until he comes in the future.

23For 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, 24and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25In 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.” 26For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

### Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The story of the last supper in John’s gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.

1Now 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. 2The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 3Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5Then 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. 6He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” 7Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” 8Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” 9Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” 10Jesus 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.” 11For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”
  12After 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? 13You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

  31b“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33Little 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.’ 34I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

### Prayers of Intercession

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Trusting in Christ’s passover from death to new life, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you bow down to serve your people. By your love and mercy, shape us to reflect our Lord’s self-giving example of service to others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You provide an abundance of food from your creation. Lead us into equitable ways of distribution, and gather households together, so that no one’s table is lacking. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your Son washed the feet of and ate with the ones who would deny and betray him. Transform the world by reconciling enemies to one another and overcoming evil with love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You listen to the cries of your people and mercifully attend to them (especially). Use us to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, heal the sick, and welcome the lonely and outcast. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You announce the promise of deliverance through the people of your first covenant. Bring joy to the Passover celebrations of our Jewish siblings, and lead us to proclaim your goodness together. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You prepare a welcoming feast table for all nations. Through the witness of your saints (especially), reveal the heavenly vision to the world, and extend an invitation to everyone. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Attend to the needs of the whole world with your saving grace, and lead us all into new life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**