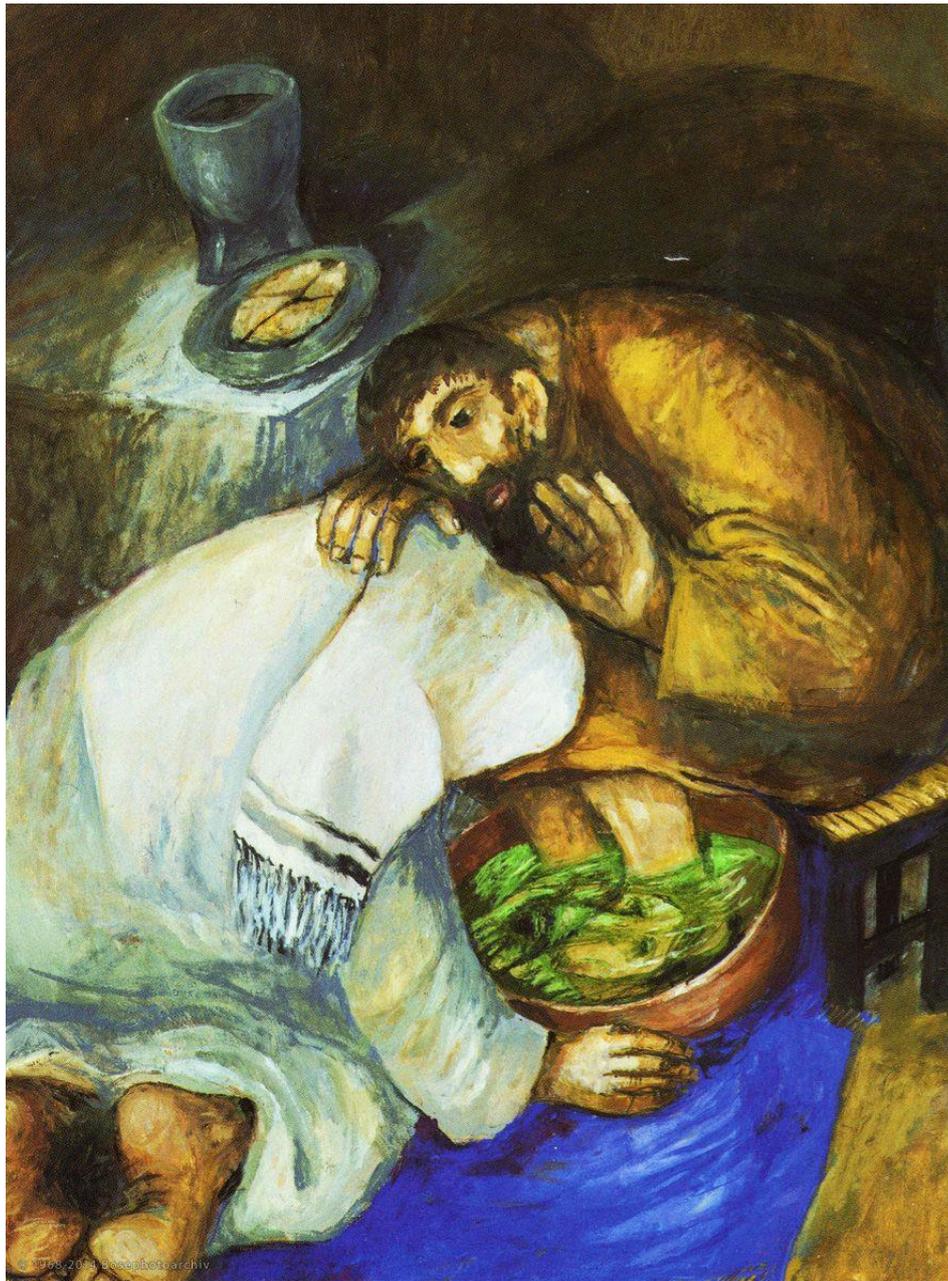


# MAUNDY THURSDAY

## I: A LITURGY TO USE AT HOME



Sieger Köder (1925–2015), *Jesus washes Peter's feet*

## INTRODUCTION

Maundy Thursday is the start of the Sacred Triduum, the three days forming the climax of our Passiontide journey, when we reflect on the last moments of Christ on earth. Usually it is a time when we greatly value being together as a community in church – but this year things are very different. This leaflet offers some material for praying at home that you may find helpful. Please do not feel that you need to use all of it. You may like to focus mostly on the words of the liturgy, or to spend more time with the visual images or the music.

As Holy Week invites us to fall in step with Jesus, we pray that we might walk humbly as Jesus did and, with hearts like his, reach out to all who are burdened by grief, anxiety or pain at this time. We also pray for one another in the cathedral and parish church congregations, for our loved ones, and for the communities in which we live. As we journey through these next three days, we keep our eyes on Jesus, even if we find our journey less orderly than before.

If you are using this resource on your screen, it should be possible to access the clips to the music items (delivered by YouTube) simply by clicking on them. If you have printed it out as a leaflet, a list of the clips is given below. Sometimes the clips begin with an advert, but you should be able to skip this after a few seconds.

John Stainer, God so loved the world (Choir of St Paul's Cathedral)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5Akz6J8Rw0>

William Byrd, Kyrie eleison, Mass for Four Voices (Tallis Scholars)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxdBiNp2vU>

William Byrd, Ave Verum Corpus (Gesualdo Six)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9P\\_RyHWdVs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9P_RyHWdVs)

Ola Gjeilo, Ubi caritas et amor (Voces 8)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnfJL-fFMbU>

John Rutter, The Lord Bless you and Keep You (Cambridge Singers)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdGPnR-KyHE>

## PREPARATION

*Take a moment in quiet to acknowledge God's presence with you.*

[John Stainer, God so loved the world \(St Paul's Cathedral Choir\)](#)

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3: 16, 17)

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

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

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.

[William Byrd, Kyrie Eleison from the Mass for Four Voices \(Tallis Scholars\)](#)

Have mercy on us, O God, in your great goodness;  
according to the abundance of your compassion  
blot out our offences.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Against you only have we sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Purge us from our sin and we shall be clean;  
wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Holy God, holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.  
Amen.**

Let us pray that we may love one another as Christ has loved us.

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### THE WORD OF GOD

#### **A reading from St Paul to the Corinthians** *1 Cor. 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.

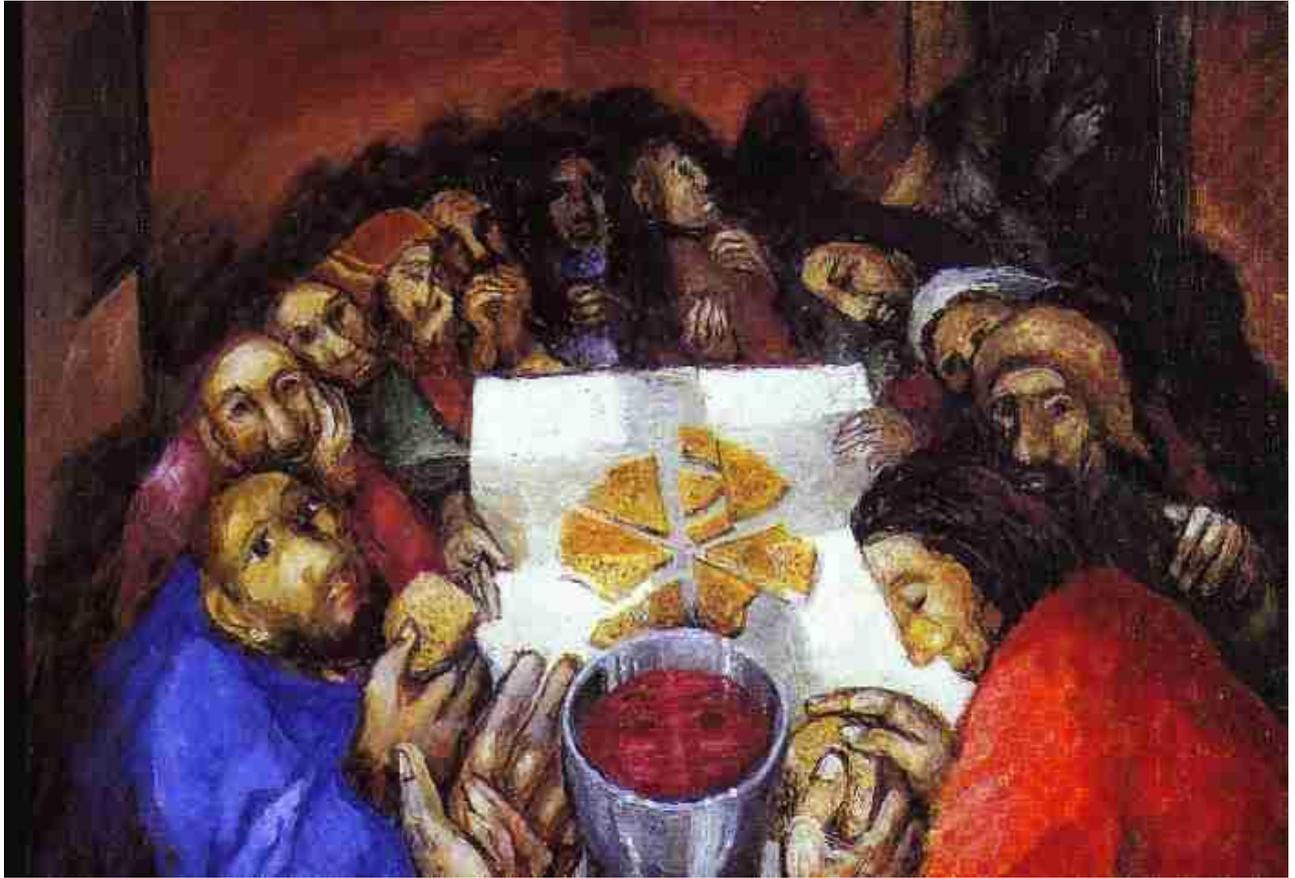
This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*You may like to spend some moments reflecting on the picture opposite. Notice the face of Jesus reflected in the chalice; the shadow of the cross reflected on the white cloth; the broken bread in the centre, forming the Chi Rho symbol (the first letters of the name Christ, in Greek); the expressions on the faces of the disciples – almost all turned towards Jesus, even as Judas leaves the room. One of Jesus's hands is open in a gesture of self-offering.*

*This is a moment of intense love and mystery, containing the desire of Jesus that we should remember him and know that his presence remains with us and within us.*

*What resonates with you here? Where are you in the picture?*



Sieger Köder (1925–2015), *Last Supper*

[William Byrd, Ave Verum Corpus \(Gesualdo Six\)](#)

Ave verum Corpus, natum ex Maria Virgine,  
Vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine,  
Cujus latus perforatum unda fluxit sanguine:  
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.  
O dulcis, O pie, O Jesu Fili Mariae, miserere mei. Amen.

Body of Christ, born of the Virgin Mary,  
you truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for all humanity.  
From your pierced side your blood flowed.  
May your body and blood be to us a foretaste of what is to come,  
even during the ordeal of death.  
O merciful, holy, dearest Jesus, son of Mary. Amen.

## Gospel Reading

*John 13: 1–17, 31b–35*

The Gospel according to Saint 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.'

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.**

*Take a moment of quiet to ponder these words. Although the evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke all describe Jesus taking and sharing bread and wine at the Last Supper, St John focuses instead on Jesus washing the feet of the disciples – including those of Judas. Washing someone's feet was an act thought too lowly even for slaves. But John explains why Jesus is doing this: he loves the disciples – and us – 'to the end'.*

*You may also like to spend a little time looking at Sieger Köder's painting of Jesus washing Peter's feet (on the cover of this booklet). Jesus kneels before Peter in the guise of a servant, though the sacred nature of the task is emphasised by the striped Jewish prayer-shawl over his head. The soles of his feet are turned towards us in vulnerability, while his face is hidden and can only be seen as a reflection in the water, which is already cloudy and muddy from use.*

*After Jesus has washed the feet of all the disciples, Jesus asks them, 'Do you know what I have done to you?'*

*Looking at our own lives, perhaps in all their muddiness, can we recognise what Jesus has done for us? Where are we able to see the Lord's love for us and for those we care about during these recent weeks?*

## The Washing of Feet or Hands

*In the Maundy Thursday liturgy in St Asaph Cathedral we are invited to wash one another's hands as a symbol of our need for renewed cleansing and forgiveness, made possible by the love of God. It is also a task that Jesus calls us to do for one another. In recent weeks, handwashing has taken on a new significance and a new urgency. It has become a sign of service and our care for one another in a very real way. This evening you might like to remember this at home by resting your own hands or feet in a bowl of water, and imagining Jesus present with you, or by washing the hands or feet of someone you live with. As we do so, we pray that our merciful God will help us to commit ourselves anew to lives of service and care for one another.*

## The Touch of the Towel

Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia (2011)

Jesus, you kneel before me  
You remove my shoes and I am exposed  
My feet are grimy  
full of callouses and cracks  
pungent with sweat and toe jam  
I'm embarrassed by them  
I pull back but you reassure  
You're not offended  
I feel welcome in your hands  
vulnerable, yet safe  
The cleansing begins  
I see your reflection in the ripples  
I see me, too  
Your water brings truth and life  
Who I am and who I can be  
I am whole and home in the touch of the towel  
You look at my neighbour and hand it to me.



Ford Madox Brown, *Jesus washing Peter's feet*

*During the washing, you may like to listen to this setting of Ubi caritas et amor, and then to pray the words of the text.*

[Ola Gjeilo, Ubi caritas et amor \(Voces 8\)](#)

*God is love, and where true love is, God himself is there.*

Here in Christ we gather, love of Christ our calling;  
Christ, our love, is with us, gladness be his greeting;  
let us all revere and love him, God eternal.

Loving him, let each love Christ in all his brothers. *God is love ...*

When we Christians gather, members of one Body,  
let there be in us no discord, but one spirit;  
banished now be anger, strife and every quarrel.  
Christ our God be present always here among us. *God is love ...*

Grant us love's fulfilment, joy with all the blessed  
when we see your face, O Saviour, in its glory;  
shine on us, O purest Light of all creation,  
be our bliss while endless ages sing your praises. *God is love ...*

Text paraphrased by James Quinn SJ

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

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, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one.  
We pray for the unity of your Church.

**Lord, hear us, and unite us.**

On this night, Jesus 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, Jesus 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, Jesus 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, Jesus 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.**

## THE PEACE

Peace to this house from God our heavenly Father,  
Peace to this house from his Son who is our peace.  
Peace to this house from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

Eternal God,  
your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns,  
now and for ever. Amen.

[John Rutter, The Lord Bless you and Keep You \(Cambridge Singers\)](#)

The Lord bless you and keep you:  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,  
To shine upon you and be gracious, and be gracious unto you  
The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace. (Numbers 6: 24–26)



Arcabas, '*Ceci est mon corps*' ('This is my body')

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