

JOURNEYING THROUGH MAUNDY THURSDAY



The Evening is split into two parts:

PART 1: The PASSOVER MEAL

PART 2: THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

You may choose do one or both of these.

Each section is accompanied by a reading, an action and an invitation to pray or reflect.

Directions: The instructions in this liturgy are suggestions and intended to be helpful. Each of our contexts, our homes and our circumstances, are different. Therefore you will need to adapt each section to your own context.

Readings: To be read aloud (or to yourself if you prefer). If you are sharing a house or flat with more than one person you might like to divide the reading of these up between you.

Songs: You may choose to sing these or listen to them on the links provided.

You will need: (find creative ways to adapt/improvise if you do not have these exact items)

Part 1:

- Have your meal prepared for the evening - preferably something that won't get cold - and including bread and wine/ grapes and oatcakes, or similar.
- A bowl of water and a cloth or wet wipe to wipe your hands.
- A selection of coins

Part 2:

- A real feather or paper to make one (white or coloured)
- An angel ornament, or an angel picture from an old Christmas card, or your own drawing of an angel
- Paper for making your angel drawing
- Scissors

PART 1: The PASSOVER MEAL PREPARATION



Reading 1: Mark 14: 12-16

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

Activity: Quietly or in silence (if possible) lay a cloth on the table with cutlery and the food and drink you intend to eat. Sit down at your table when this is done.

Reflection: During this meal Jesus prepares his friends for the journey ahead, giving them a way to remember him and to strengthen them through the dark days ahead.

Prayer: Christ we remember you now
as we prepare to eat
and to listen to the story of your Passion and love for us.
We bring to mind
those we wish we were sharing this meal with tonight
but because of current restrictions, cannot.

(You may wish to say their names in silence or out loud.)

SERVANTHOOD: Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet



Reading 2: John 13: 4-17

Jesus got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Activity: Wash your own hands or, if with others, the hands of those around you. Take your time.

Reflection: Washing our hands has become a vital part of our routines. By washing our hands we care both for ourselves and those around us, those who we know and do not know.

Prayer: Let us prayer a pray of thanks for the many who serve us,
perhaps risking their lives to do so –
the many working in the NHS;
the bin men keeping our streets clean;
the postie delivering cards, letters, messages, supplies and
medicines; those stacking supermarkets shelves or serving us in
shops;
those keeping our heating and our lights on;
those keeping our toilets flushing and water coming out our taps
so that we can wash our hands.
Let us be thankful for our homes,
for the food on our table
Let us remember too, those in situations where this is not the case.
Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy.

THE PASSOVER MEAL 1: THE BETRAYAL



Begin eating your meal. At some point in the meal, take a break and begin this time with the simple activity below, followed by the reading.

Activity: Take your pile of coins and run them through your fingers, drop them on the table and listen to the sound.

Reading 3: Mark 14:18-20

While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

"It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

Reflection: Perhaps during this time of crisis, we feel let down by those who have put power and greed before the health and well being of others, whether it be those hoarding food or those in power who have failed us by not preparing in advance as much as they could have – seen for example in the lack of Personal Protective Equipment or ventilators that are needed.

Prayer: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen.

THE PASSOVER MEAL 2: THANKSGIVING



Reading 4: Mark 14:22-25

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Activity: Eat and drink your bread and wine/ grapes and oatcake/ or similar.

Reflection: Knowing that he was facing imminent death, Jesus chose to be with his friends sharing a meal, even with the one who would betray him. During the meal he continued to teach them what was important – to look after and serve one another, that none was more important than another – and he gave thanks. He gave thanks, despite what was about to happen, offering them hope for the future, something at this point they could not begin to imagine.

Prayer: Living with an uncertain future,
let us hand ourselves over to the Mystery of life.
Barren trees and shrubs of winter,
begin in spring, miraculously it seems, to display green shoots,
new buds appearing from their spikey, unlikely looking branches.
Let us remember that death is not the end, but the beginning;
that hope and new life appear in the unlikeliest of places.

Activity: After your meal is finished clear the table in silence, if possible, enacting a stripping of the altar or a making space for the next part of the journey.

PART 2: THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE



You may have just stripped your table or you may be beginning your Maundy Thursday journey here.

Activity 1: If you haven't already cleared your table or even if you have, you might like to clear a space somewhere. For example, strip your mantelpiece, a small coffee table or a shelf to create a desolate space reflecting the bleak turn the story now takes.

Activity 2: You may want place a feather, should you have one – a symbol of the cock crowing in Peter's story - on the table/ mantelpiece/ shelf. A simple paper feather can be made from a piece of white or coloured paper (you might want to choose cockerel colours) as follows: fold in half, cut a stem and long half-leaf shape, make many angled cuts towards the fold all the way up the leaf, but not right to the fold, open out. You should have a simple feather shape.



Song: The meal traditionally ends with a song – almost certainly a psalm, according to monk and liturgical scholar Gregory Dix. Begin this section by singing or listening to a hymn.

Let the Giving of Thanks (based on Psalm 50)
WGRG No.6 Psalms of Patience, Protest, and Praise

Or feel free to choose your own.

GETHSEMANE 1: THE DENIAL



Reading 5: Mark 14:26-31

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

"You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not."

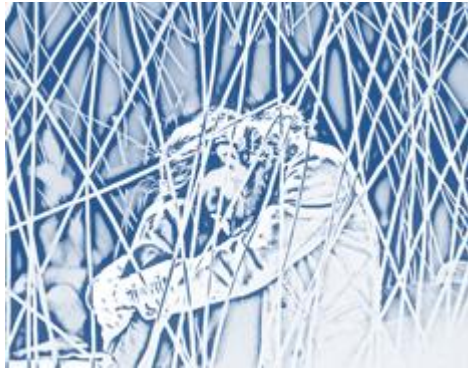
"Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice, you yourself will disown me three times."

But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

Reflection: We do not know how we will act in times of trouble, fear or crisis. We hope we will act well but we may fail to live up to our own and others' expectations. This is a cause for sorrow and later we see Peter weep bitterly at his own failure to live up to who he thought he was. We also know that although Peter abandoned Jesus, Jesus did not abandon Peter but had important things to ask of him in his life.

Prayer: Christ Jesus, forgive us when we fall.
Help us to acknowledge our weakness
and draw on your strength.
Christ Jesus, forgive us when we fail.
Help us to acknowledge our imperfections
and draw on your grace.
Christ Jesus, forgive us when we are fearful.
Help us to acknowledge our vulnerabilities
and draw on your love.

GETHSEMANE 2: JESUS PRAYS



Reading 6: Luke 22:40-46

On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

Reflection: Jesus struggled and feared the journey to death he was asked to take, so much so that he asked God if it could be taken from him – a very natural human reaction. Yet in his 'earnest prayer – in so much anguish that the sweat from his dropped like blood to the ground' – he was strengthened by an angel, according to Luke's version. Those whom he had asked to pray for him had fallen asleep. Luke tells us it was because they were 'exhausted from sorrow.' The tiredness of their grief had caused them to fall asleep. Perhaps in a way this was a kind of prayer?

For many of us, we are in a fearful time of facing death, perhaps our own or of those we love. In these unprecedented times, death may be an especially lonely journey. The forced abandonment of loved ones at such a time is a heart-wrenching grief in itself, leaving us only with prayer or perhaps too exhausted with grief to pray.

Prayer and song:

Loving Christ,
who has known the fearful journey of death,
strengthen us,
as the angel in the garden came to strengthen you.

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

Loving Christ,
when we feel alone and afraid of the unknown,
give us courage each day
to face the journey ahead as you faced your own to death.

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

Loving Christ,
whose own disciples were exhausted with grief,
in your resurrection there is hope .
Help us then
not to fall into the temptation of utter despair

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

Alternatively you may want to listen or sing along with one of these versions at the end of the prayer.

3.22 min version

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6tVReXsioM&list=RDFCr2tn4yYKY&start_radio=1

5.38 min version with images

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCr2tn4yYKY>

Activity: Children might want to draw an angel throughout this section and place it on the table/ mantelpiece/ shelf.

Or find a picture of one from an old Christmas card, draw your own or print and cut out the one on the back page.

Or simply light a small candle in the desolate space.

GETHSEMANE 3: JESUS ARRESTED



Reading 7: Mark 14: 43-50 Jesus Arrested

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him. Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

"Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." Then everyone deserted him and fled.

Reflection: Jesus is betrayed and abandoned by his friends but even as he is being arrested he continues to show us the way; the way of peace. He both rebukes Peter for assaulting a servant and submits peaceably to the dark journey laid before him.

Prayer: Loving God,
when we are fearful and respond with cruel words
towards those we love,
teach us your way of peace.

Loving Christ,
when we are fearful and respond with violent actions
towards our enemies,
teach us your way of peace.

Loving Spirit,
when we are fearful as many of us are now
in this time of darkness,
teach us your way of peace.

Activity: Blow out your candle if you lit one or turn out the light in the room you are in and sit for a short time in the blackness, trusting that God goes with you in the darkness.

This Liturgy has been written by Carol Marples of the Soul Marks Trust.
Its structure owes a nod to that of the Maundy Thursday service and liturgy practiced for many years at St. James the Less Episcopal Church, Leith.
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