

MAUNDY THURSDAY



6990 SOUTH FEDERAL HIGHWAY, PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 34952
(772) 446-9619
WWW.HOLYFAITHPSL.ORG

Maundy Thursday

The Word of God

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

His mercy endures forever.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

(repeat three times)

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Let us pray

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Please be seated for the reading of Holy Scripture

A reading from the book of Exodus (12:1-14a)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell 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. If 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. This 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. For 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 judgements: I am the Lord. The 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. This 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.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Let us read a portion of Psalm 116 responsively by verse

¹ I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

*¹⁰ How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?*

¹¹ I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

*¹² I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.*

¹³ Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.

*¹⁴ O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.*

¹⁵ I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

*¹⁶ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,*

¹⁷ In the courts of the Lord's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians (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.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand to sing Hymn 301

*Bread of the world, in mercy broken,
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,
by whom the words of life were spoken,
and in whose death our sins are dead:
look on the heart by sorrow broken,
look on the tears by sinners shed;
and be thy feast to us the token
that by thy grace our souls are fed.*

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

(13:1-17, 31-35)

Glory to you, Lord Christ

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.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘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.’

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ

The Homily

The Foot Washing

Please remove your socks and shoes, then come forward.

Sit to have your feet washed and dried by the clergy.

Afterwards, return to your seat and pray.

The Prayers of the People

Please kneel

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of Gabriel and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Please stand

The peace of the lord be always with you

And also with you

The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Hymn 304

- 1. I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me.*
- 2. I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.*
- 3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.*
- 4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known:
we see and praise him here.*
- 5. Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways
and as his people in the world
we'll live and speak his praise.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give him thanks and praise

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel if you are able

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***AMEN.***

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion

Hymn 321

*1 My God, thy table now is spread,
thy cup with love doth overflow;
be all thy children thither led,
and let them thy sweet mercies know.*

*2 O let thy table honored be,
and furnished well with joyful guests:
and may each soul salvation see,
that here its sacred pledges tastes.*

*3 Drawn by thy quickening grace, O Lord,
in countless numbers let them come
and gather from their Father's board
the Bread that lives beyond the tomb.*

*4 Nor let thy spreading Gospel rest
till through the world thy truth has run,
till with this Bread shall all be blessed
who see the light or feel the sun.*

Hymn 324

*1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.*

*2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the Body and the Blood
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.*

*3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of Light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.*

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of His Son Jesus Christ, and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Stripping of the Altar

This had been a day of feverish activity, the prophetic pronouncement of his suffering and death, and the sacred Passover meal, but it was also a day filled with betrayal, arrest and denial. This was the day of Preparation for the Passover from sundown on Wednesday to sundown on Thursday. Jesus completed his public ministry and public teaching by Wednesday afternoon. He spent late Wednesday and daytime on Thursday privately teaching His disciples.

There would be no more nightly trips to Bethany, as had been his custom since Sunday, Thursday night and Friday morning would include his late-night arrest in the dense forest on the Mount of Olives. There would be two irregular trials, one hastily called before Roman officials and one illegally called before the Sanhedrin and Pilate would have his say. So would Herod. There would be his excruciating scourging, stripping and an agonizing crucifixion. It is important that we face the extent of the horror that Jesus endured that we may know the lavish extent of His love.

The Maundy Thursday stripping of the altar lifts up two primary metaphors

The first comes from an ancient time when the altar represented the actual physical Body of Jesus. The stripping and washing were done this night as though the altar or body was being prepared for burial. It's anointing with fragrant oils was reminiscent of the spices taken to the tomb by Joseph of Arimathea. The lingering scent will also be a wonderful Easter reminder of the events of God's Friday when the true Passover Lamb was sacrificed for the sin of the world. This custom also had a practical side, that there would be an annual washing of the altar before the Paschal Eucharist of Easter.

The second metaphor, though related, paints a visual display of the symbols behind Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. These actions force us to imagine a world devoid of Christ. As the items are removed from the church, all symbols of his life and love, we are forced to imagine what a life without Christ would be like. The decorative items, the Eucharistic vessels, candles, candlesticks, and related items will all be carefully removed and hidden from sight. You will note that this service has no formal prayers of intercession or adoration- rather we are called to stare into the single event of history that changed all time.

The Altar Cross is brought to the center

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1st Corinthians, chapter 1, verse 18

In the simple shape, we find our assurance, our hope, our promise, our pardon, our assurance, our salvation. Whether rugged cross or polished wood, the cross is the emblem of faithful followers of Jesus Christ; the visual focus of our church, our worship, and our faith. It is the power of God to those who are being saved.

The Cross is removed

The Chalice is raised

The Chalice, whether pottery, silver or gold, simple or jeweled, is the cup of the new covenant offered at the Last Supper by Jesus to his disciples. In it they were offered their first heavenly drink of the blood of Christ. This cup of blessing is an assurance of pardon and a foretaste of our inheritance in Christ.

The Ciborium is Raised

Sacred bread for set apart people has been a sign of God's provision, from the time of manna in the wilderness, to the daily bread we pray for in the Lord's Prayer. We gather as forgiven sinners and have a foretaste of that heavenly marriage banquet, when we will feast with Christ and all the saints. Our sacred vessels are cleaned and put away for there will be no celebration of Eucharist tomorrow when we gather to remember his death.

The Chalice and Ciborium are removed

The Candles are brought to the altar

Candlesticks of solid gold adorned the Temple in Jerusalem. In Solomon's temple there were ten separate candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right and five on the left of the Holy Place. Candles perform an obvious function of providing light to see and read for the priests, but also represent illumination of heart and mind. As the service progresses the church shifts from light to darkness, signifying Jesus' impending death.

Candles are removed

The Flowers are placed on the altar

In John 18, Jesus went to pray in the garden of Gethsemane, the half way spot up the Mount of Olives where Jesus stopped to pray with his disciples, and hide from those who sought to take his life. Flowers remind us that garden of prayer, betrayal, and arrest, but they also point us to another garden... one with the freshly hewn tomb of Joseph of Arimathea that would become the burial place of Jesus.

The flowers are removed from the altar

Altar Linens are folded

Typical Jewish burial customs included cloths of different shapes. After death, the body was washed, and often anointed with perfumed oil. Small cloths were folded and placed over the eyes, the hands and feet were often loosely wrapped, a larger cloth covered the head, and then the prepared body was placed inside a long shroud that would be folded over upon itself and tucked in under the body.

All of the altar cloths have names of burial cloths; the small purificators that are used to wipe the chalice- are much like the small napkins that covered the eyes. The Corporal or “body cloth” that gathers up any crumbs left over compares with the headpiece. The lengthy fair linen compares with the simple folded burial shroud. Our fair linen has 5 embroidered crosses representing the 5 wounds of Jesus: two on his hands, two on his feet and one from the spear in his side.

Linens are removed

Holy oils are brought forward

In ancient times, oils were used for the consecration of kings, priests, and prophets. Sacred vessels and even battle shields were anointed before battle. New Testament images speak of oil for the lamps of the maidens who went out seeking the bridegroom, oil poured on the wounded Levite by the good Samaritan, oils used for exorcism and healing. It is fitting that tonight we remove our Holy Oils from the tabernacle.

Holy Oils are removed

The Altar is washed

And finally, we wash the altar, the symbol of Christ’s body, as we would have prepared a body for burial in Israel. Between tonight and tomorrow afternoon- his sacred body will be tortured, flogged with bone embedded cords of the scourge, fall under the weight of the transom of the cross in the dusty streets of Jerusalem on the way to Calvary, The stark emptiness of the chancel and the darkness of this night, speaks volumes of what will happen tomorrow.

The altar is oiled

There need be no decoration, no embellishment, no trivial view that takes anything away from the cross. Tomorrow, the violence of the crucifixion will take place, there will be darkness from noon till 3, the departure of the disciples, the forgiveness of the repentant thief, the seven final words will be uttered from his saving lips, the earthquake shaking all of creation, and the removal of the lifeless human form, the weight of his limp body carried to the garden tomb, the sealing of the tomb, the setting of the guard.

The altar party leaves

We have only an empty blood-stained cross staring at us down through the centuries.

*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

Please maintain silence as you leave.