



## St Maxentius WORSHIP AT HOME

9 April 2020

*As it's not possible to join together for worship in church at this time this outline is designed to help you have a short time of worship in your home.*

*To prepare, choose a place where you can sit comfortably and if you have them, gather a few things that will help you create a sacred space – we suggest a cross, Bible and candle.*



### Introduction

*Maundy Thursday takes us from the last meal Jesus shared with his friends out into the Garden of Gethsemane and his struggle with fear and doubt. It takes us through the horror of his arrest at dead of night. He is taken roughly to the authorities, and up to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, and given a kangaroo trial. And the outcome was never in doubt.*

*In our worship today we hear the story again and travel with him the road of self-sacrifice. We watch as he washes the feet of his friends, a model for us of leadership and service. We celebrate his great gift to all his followers, the gift of holy communion. For ever we have our own last suppers taking his body and blood into ourselves, joining ourselves to him in the closest possible way.*

*And then we too go out into the garden, waiting with fear for what comes next.*

### Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

‘If you love me, keep my commandments.’

Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love and ask him to cleanse us.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be;

that we may do justly, love mercy,

and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

**May the God of love bring us back to himself,**

**forgive us our sins**

**and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## Glory to God

### Prayer for the Day

God our Father,  
you have invited us to share in the supper  
which your Son gave to his Church  
to proclaim his death until he comes:  
may he nourish us by his presence,  
and unite us in his love;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. Amen



### Reading Exodus 12.1-4, 11-14 the Passover

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 neighbour 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.



*This is the word of the Lord.*

### Gospel reading John 13.1-17,31b-35 Jesus washes the disciples' feet

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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.

### The New Commandment

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 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.**

### Reflection

On the night he was betrayed Jesus washed his disciples’ feet giving us a model to follow in our own discipleship.

How different his understanding of leadership from that of the rulers of this



world. There are those who manipulate the rules and change the laws so that they can remain in power for as long as they want. At its extreme they will use violence to keep themselves in power. There are those who have very few actual beliefs but know what will get people to vote for them. At its extreme they will change their pitch frequently regardless of what is either true or necessary. There are those who have admirable commitment to principles but little understanding of what other people want or need. They don’t usually gain power but hang on to leadership.

Jesus gives us a different way. Servant Leadership puts the needs of others first. Jesus in no way laid aside his role in the group of disciples but he gave them a new way of exercising that role. His leadership wasn’t about gaining power for his own enrichment but using what power he had to make life better for others.

In his language that meant using power to bring about the kingdom of God, that it, a place and way of life that God intended for us and all with whom we share this world in the dawn of creation. The whole of the last week of Jesus’ life is an illustration of the same message. We are not here for our own benefit; If we live only for ourselves in the end it all comes to dust. If we live for others we find the pearl of great price. As Jesus said, ‘Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.’

Jesus did just that. He lost his life but out of that came a new life, for him and for us.

## Prayers for the world and ourselves

On the night he was betrayed Jesus washed his disciples' feet.

- *Pray for all those who care for others; for those who work in nursing homes, who look after relatives, especially children who care for their parents; for those who provide a home for those without one; that they may be sustained in their work by finding it the place of love*

On the night he was betrayed he told his disciples not to give back violence for violence

- *Pray for those who are rejected and betrayed; for those whose lives don't fit the same pattern as others'; for those driven out of their own homes; asylum seekers and refugees; that they may find a home and acceptance*

On the night he was arrested he told his disciples to love one another

- *pray for those locked in cycles of hatred and bitterness, who cannot make peace with the past; that they may experience the freedom that comes from forgiveness and friendship*



## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

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

Jesus prayed to the Father, 'If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me.'  
He said to his disciples, 'How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinners.'

*Christ was obedient unto death. Go in his peace.*

