

St Luke's Church

10-minute worship



Maundy Thursday

Some churches re-enact the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday evening by symbolically washing one another's feet during a service of Holy Communion. I remember a few years ago there was a discussion on Twitter about how much easier it was to get volunteers to do the foot washing than to find people willing to have their feet washed.

Sometimes it's like that in ordinary life too. Most of us enjoy helping other people – so long as they aren't too demanding and the tasks they ask us to do aren't too onerous – but few of us relish having to ask other people to help us.

Now, ordinary life has been put on hold for a while, and we are all confined to our homes to a greater or lesser degree. Some of us are being forced to depend on other people in a way that is both strange and uncomfortable; some of us are being prevented from doing things for others that we would like to do; some of us would like to do more but don't know how. Whatever our circumstances, let's try to see to it that when we finally emerge from our isolation we all remember how important it is both to help others and to accept help graciously.

The collect for Maundy Thursday

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.**

Good Friday

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts

Easter Day

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Psalm 114

When Israel came out of Egypt, Jacob from a people of foreign tongue, Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

The sea looked and fled, the Jordan turned back; the mountains leaped like rams, the hills like lambs.

Why was it, sea, that you fled? Why, Jordan, did you turn back?

Why, mountains, did you leap like rams, you hills, like lambs?

Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock into springs of water.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, for ever and ever, Amen.

Matthew 28:1-10

Jesus Has Risen!

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray to God for the needs of the world.

‘The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid”.’

Today many people are afraid: afraid for their lives, afraid for their jobs, afraid for their families, afraid of being alone, afraid of being in the company of others. Be with everyone in their fear and enable them to feel your assurance that, even in their isolation, you are alongside them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

‘Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid.”’

In these uncertain times, it is hard not to be afraid. It is difficult to believe the angel who tells us that all is not lost and we shall come through this. And we know that, although we may come through, we will not come through unchanged. Help us truly to believe that Christ is risen, the first fruits of those who have died, and to live in the glorious hope which that knowledge brings.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**