



## **Maundy Thursday**

### **Liturgy of the Word**

*The celebrant may address the congregation in these words.*

**This is the day**

that Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

**This is the day**

that Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

**This is the day**

that Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet,  
giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us.

**This is the day**

that Christ our God gave us the holy feast, that we who eat this bread and drink this cup  
may proclaim his Holy Sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection,  
and at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

### **Collect**

O God,  
your Son Jesus Christ  
has left to us the feast of bread and wine  
in which we share his body and his blood.  
May we who remember this sign of his great love  
show in our lives the fruits of his redemption;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Readings**

#### **Exodus 12.1–10**

*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. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from*

*the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 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.*

### **Psalm 116**

I love the LORD, because he has heard  
the voice of my supplications.  
Because he inclined his ear to me,  
whenever I called upon him.  
How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things he has done for me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD,  
I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people.  
Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his servants.  
O LORD, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, and the child of your handmaid.  
You have freed me from my bonds.  
I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call on the name of the LORD.  
I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

### **John 13.1–17, 31b–35**

*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.'*

*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.'*

*Sermon.*

### **My Song Is Love Unknown**

*My song is love unknown,  
my Savior's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown,  
that they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?*

*He came from his blest throne,  
salvation to bestow;  
but men cared not, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know.  
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
who at my need his life did spend!*

*Sometimes they strew his way,  
and his sweet praises sing;  
resounding all the day  
hosannas to their King.*

*Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,  
and for his death they thirst and cry.*

*They rise, and needs will have  
my dear Lord sent away;  
a murderer they save,  
the Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet willing he to suffering goes,  
that he his foes from thence might free.*

*Here might I stay and sing,  
no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine.  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.*

*Intercessions for our church and world: by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw for Resurrection  
Lutheran Church, Arlington, Virginia.*

United with Christians around the globe, on this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the church,  
the earth, our troubled world, and all in need, responding to each petition with the words,  
O Loving Lord,  
**Your mercy is great**

Blessed are you, holy God, we pray for your church. Gather all around your presence in the  
Word. Strengthen the body of your people even when we cannot assemble for worship. Grant our  
church leaders faithfulness and creativity for their ministry in this time, and accompany those  
who have been preparing for baptism, confirmation or who seek renewal in their faith.  
O loving Lord,  
**Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, bountiful God, for this good earth and for the flowering of springtime. Save dry  
lands from destructive droughts. Protect the waters from pollution. Allow in this time the  
planting of fields for food that all things may be made new. Make us trustworthy caregivers of  
your wondrous creation. O loving Lord,  
**Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God, for our nation. Inspire all people to live in peace and concord.  
Grant wisdom and courage to those in positions of leadership as they face the coronavirus.  
Empower our officials to champion the cause of the needy. O loving Lord,  
**Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, faithful God, for you accompany your suffering humanity with love. Abide  
wherever the coronavirus has struck. Visit all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the  
virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; those who have lost their

employment; those who fear the present and the future. Support all physicians, nurses, and health care aides; medical researchers and technicians; and the World Health Organization.

O loving Lord,

**Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, for you care for the needy. We beg you to fill us with compassion that we may assist you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. We pray especially for those we name before you now... O loving Lord,

**Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith or your Son; especially Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whom we remember today, and all those whom we name and remember before you... bring us, with them, into your everlasting glory. O loving Lord,

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive, merciful God, our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the host of our meal of life, who offered himself in love, that we might live with you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*All* **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.**

*Prayer*

Holy God,  
source of all love,  
on the night of his betrayal  
Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment,  
to love one another as he loved them.  
Write this commandment in our hearts;  
give us the will to serve others  
as he was the servant of all,  
who gave his life and died for us,

yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*The blessing or dismissal is omitted; the congregation should leave in silence.*

**The Moon** – *Timothy Matthews*

I used to think the moon was like a Host  
set in the shimmering monstrance of the sky,  
bejeweled with stars  
and held on high  
in God's right hand.

And then I thought the moon was like a place  
from which to view the splendid earth above,  
inhabited by living things  
and held in love  
within His arms.

But now I see the moon a Host once more,  
a presence of the Saviour we adore  
and I believe that as we come to Him,  
as to a brother,  
we find that we come closer to each other.



Bishop Timothy Matthews (1907-1991) was the ninth Bishop of Quebec serving from 1971-1977. He was educated at Bishop's University, Lennoxville, Quebec and ordained in 1933.