

A Storymas for Maundy Thursday

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

And also with you

Let us give thanks
to the Lord for his goodness
**and the wonders he does
for his children**

Let us offer him
sacrifices of thanksgiving
**and tell of his acts
with shouts of joy**



The Preparations

The day had come for the Festival of Thin Bread, and it was time to kill the Passover lambs. So Jesus said to Peter and John
Go and prepare the Passover meal for us to eat.

But they asked
Where do you want us to prepare it?

Jesus said to the two of them
Go into the city, where you will meet a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him, and when he goes into a house, say to the owner

Our teacher says, My time has come! I want to eat the Passover meal with my disciples in your home. Our teacher wants to where he can eat the Passover meal with his disciples.

The owner will take you upstairs and show you a large room, furnished and ready for you to use. Prepare the meal there.

Peter and John left and went into the city. They did as Jesus told them and they found everything just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover meal.

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, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever
Amen

The Upper Room

Even before the evening meal started, the devil had made Judas decide to betray Jesus. When the time came for Jesus and the twelve to eat, he said to them
I have very much wanted to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer. I tell you that I will not eat another Passover meal until it is finally eaten in God's kingdom.

At the Eucharist we are with our crucified and risen Lord. We know that it was not only our ancestors, but we who were redeemed and brought from mourning to feasting. We know that as he was with them in the upper room so our Lord is here with us now
**Until the kingdom of God comes
let us celebrate this feast.**

Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and to return to the Father. He had always loved his followers in this world, and he loved them to the very end. Jesus knew that he had come from God and would go back to God. He also knew that the Father had given him complete power. So during the meal Jesus got up, removed his outer garment, and wrapped a towel around his waist. He put some water into a large bowl. Then he began washing his disciples' feet and drying them with the towel he was wearing.



But when it was Simon Peter's turn, he protested
Lord, are you going to wash my feet?

Jesus answered
You don't really know what I am doing,
but later you will understand.

You will never wash my feet!
Peter replied.

If I don't wash you
Jesus told him
you don't really belong to me.

And so Peter said
Lord, don't wash just my feet. Wash my
hands and my head!

Jesus answered
People who have bathed and are clean all
over need to wash just their feet. And you,
my disciples, are clean,

Knowing who would betray him, he added
except for one of you.

Come to this table,
not because you must
but because you may,
not because you are strong,
but because you are weak.
Come, not because
any goodness of your own
gives you a right to come
but because you need
mercy and help.
Come, because
you love the Lord a little
and would like to love him more.
Come, because he loved you
and this very night gave himself for
you. Come and meet
t with Christ Jesus,
for we are his Body.

We are invited to wash our hands

**I will wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O LORD,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and telling all your wondrous deeds**

After Jesus had washed his disciples' feet
and had put his outer garment back on, he
sat down again and he said
Do you understand what I have done?
You call me your teacher and Lord, and
you should, because that is who I am.
And if your Lord and teacher has washed
your feet, you should do the same for
each other. I have set the example, and
you should do for each other exactly what
I have done for you.

While Jesus and the twelve disciples were
eating together, he was deeply troubled and
told his disciples
One of you will surely hand me over to
my enemies. The one who will betray me
is now eating with me.

The disciples were very sad, and each one
said to Jesus
Lord, you can't mean me!

He answered

One of you men who has eaten with me from this dish will betray me. The Son of Man will die, as the Scriptures say. But its going to be terrible for the one who betrays me! That man would be better off if he had never been born.

They were confused about what he meant. And they just stared at each other.

Judas said
Teacher, you surely don't mean me?

That's what you say.
Jesus replied, knowing it was Judas who would betray him and that this was the night that he was going to do it.

When we cry out
to the Lord in our trouble,
he will deliver us from our distress

God will bring us out of darkness
and out of the shadow of death

We are often slow
to follow the example of Christ
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

We often fail to be known as
Christ's disciples
Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

We often fail
to walk the way of the cross
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

May the Father forgive you by
the death of his Son and
strengthen you to live in the
power of the Spirit all your days
Amen.

The Bread and Wine

During the meal Jesus took some bread in his hands. He blessed the bread and broke it.

Blessèd are you
Lord, God of the universe
you bring forth bread from the earth
Blessèd be God for ever

Then he gave it to his disciples and said
Take this and eat. It is my body.

After the meal Jesus took another cup of wine in his hands and gave thanks to God.

Blessèd are you
Lord, God of the universe
you create the fruit of the vine
Blessèd be God for ever

He then gave it to his disciples and said
Drink this and remember me
and they all drank some.

This is my blood which is poured out for many people and with it God makes his agreement with you. It will be poured out so that many people will have their sins forgiven. From now on I am not going to drink any wine, until I drink new wine with you in my Father's kingdom.



The Lord is here
God's spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word, and all things have come into being. You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight. Though we chose the path of rebellion you would not abandon your own. Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace. You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace. As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth, we echo the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you and singing

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.

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love made perfect in our human weakness. Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation; loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

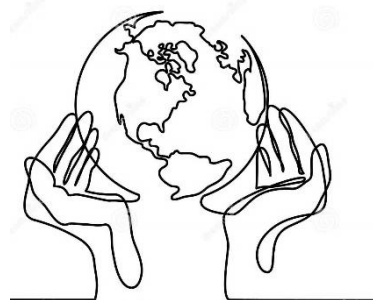
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory. As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight. Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts:

*Bless the earth
heal the sick
let the oppressed
go free and
fill your Church
with power
from on high*



Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen!

Jesus stand among us
At the meeting of our lives;
Be our sweet agreement
At the meeting of our eyes.
O Jesus, we love You,
so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity and take
away our fear.

So to You we're gathering
Out of each and every land;
Christ the love between us
At the joining of our hands.
O Jesus, we love You,
so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity and take
away our fear.

Here is bread, here is wine,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
Break the bread, taste the wine,
Christ is with us here.

Here is grace, here is peace.
Christ is with us, he is with us;
know his grace, find his peace,
feast on Jesus here.

In this bread there is healing,
in this cup there's life for ever.
In this moment, by the Spirit
Christ is with us here.

Here we are, joined in one,
Christ is with us, he is with us;
we'll proclaim, till he comes,
Jesus crucified.

In this bread there is healing,
in this cup there's life for ever.
In this moment, by the Spirit
Christ is with us here.
Christ is with us here.

The Darkness Gathers

The one who will betray me is here at the table with me! The Son of Man will die in the way that has been decided for him, but it will be terrible for the one who betrays him!

Then the twelve started arguing about who would ever do such a thing. Jesus' favourite disciple was sitting next to him at the meal, and Simon Peter motioned for that disciple to find out which one Jesus meant. So the disciple leaned toward Jesus and asked Lord, which one of us are you talking about?

I will dip this piece of bread in the sauce and give it to the one I was talking about. Then Jesus dipped the bread and gave it to Judas. Right then Satan took control of Judas.

Jesus said

Judas, go quickly and do what you have to do.

No one at the meal understood what Jesus meant but because Judas was in charge of the money, some of them thought that Jesus had told him to buy something they needed for the festival.

Others thought that Jesus had told him to give some money to the poor. Judas took the piece of bread and went out. It was already night.



After Judas had gone, Jesus said

Now the Son of Man will be given glory, and he will bring glory to God. Then, after God is given glory because of him, God will bring glory to him, and God will do it very soon.

Then they sang a hymn together and set off for the Mount of Olives, as they did each evening.

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless His holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
who leads me into life.

Jesus said to his disciples

All of you will reject me, as the Scriptures say: *I will strike down the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.* But after I am raised to life, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

Peter spoke up
Even if all the others reject you, I never will!

Jesus said
Simon, listen to me! Satan has demanded the right to test each one of you, as a farmer does when he separates wheat from the husks. But Simon, I have prayed for you that your faith will be strong. And when you have come back to me, help the others.

Peter said
Lord, I am ready to go with you to jail and even to die with you.

Would you really die for me?

Jesus asked.
Peter, I tell you for certain that before a rooster crows twice tomorrow morning, you will say three times that you don't know me.

But Peter was still so sure of himself that he said
Even if I have to die with you, I will never say that I don't know you!

All the others said the same thing.

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Mount of Olives

Jesus said
It is time for us to go now.

He and his disciples crossed the Kidron Valley and arriving at the Mount of Olives, Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus had often met there with his disciples, and Judas knew where the place was.

Sit here while I pray
he said to them.
Pray that you won't be tested.

Jesus took along Peter and the two brothers, James and John. He was sad and troubled and told them
I am so sad that I feel as if I am dying. Stay here and keep awake with me.

Jesus walked on a little way before he knelt down with his face to the ground and prayed Father, if it is possible, don't let this happen to me! Father, you can do anything. Don't make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want.

He came back and found his disciples sleeping.

Peter, are you asleep? Can't any of you stay awake with me for just one hour? Stay awake and pray that you won't be tested. You want to do what is right, but you are weak.

Again Jesus went to pray and said
My Father, if there is no other way, and I must suffer, I will still do what you want.



Jesus came back and found them sleeping again. They simply could not keep their eyes open, and they did not know what to say. He left them and prayed the same prayer once more. Then an angel from heaven came to help him. Jesus was in great pain and prayed so sincerely that his sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood.

Stay with me
Remain here with me
Watch and pray
Watch and pray

The Arrest

Finally, Jesus got up from praying and went over to his disciples. They were asleep and worn out from being so sad.



Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough of that! The time has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to sinners. Get up! Let's go. The one who will betray me is already here.

While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd came up. Led by Judas, it was a large mob of men, carrying torches and lanterns, swords and clubs. Having promised to betray Jesus, Judas had brought Roman soldiers and temple police, to the garden with him, telling them ahead of time

Arrest the man I greet with a kiss. Tie him up tight and lead him away.

Jesus already knew everything that was going to happen, but he asked My friend, why are you here? Who are you looking for?

The men answered
We are looking for Jesus from Nazareth!

Judas went over to Jesus and greeted him
Teacher
with a kiss.

Jesus asked
Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man
with a kiss?

Jesus told the men
I am Jesus!

At once they all backed away and fell to the ground. Jesus again asked
Who are you looking for?

We are looking for Jesus from Nazareth
they answered.

I have already told you that I am Jesus. If I am the one you are looking for, let these others go.

The men grabbed Jesus and arrested him. When Jesus disciples saw what was about to happen, they asked
Lord, should we attack them with a sword?

Peter pulled out his sword and struck at the high priest's servant and cut off the servant's right ear. The man's name was Malchus.

Enough of that!
Jesus said.
Put your sword away.
And then he touching Malchus on the ear and healing it, he said

Anyone who lives by fighting will die by fighting. Don't you know that I could ask my Father, and right away he would send me more than twelve armies of angels?

He said to the mob.

Why do you come with swords and clubs to arrest me like a criminal? Day after day I sat and taught in the temple, and you didn't arrest me. But all this happened, so that what the prophets wrote would come true. This is your time, and darkness is in control.

All of Jesus disciples ran off and left him. One of them was a young man who was wearing only a linen cloth. And when the men grabbed him, he left the cloth behind and ran away naked.

Kyrie Eleison call and response

The Rooster

The Roman officer and his men, together with the temple police, tied Jesus up and led him off to the house of Caiaphas the high priest. This was the same Caiaphas who had told the Jewish leaders

It is better if one person dies for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed along at a distance. That disciple knew the high priest, and he followed Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest's house. Peter stayed outside near the gate. But the other disciple came back out and spoke to the girl at the gate. She let Peter go in and he went in and sat down with the guards to see what was going to happen. It was cold, and the servants and temple police had made a charcoal fire. and Peter went over and stood near it to warm himself. While Peter was still in the courtyard, the servant girl of the high priest came up and saw Peter warming himself by the fire.

She stared at him. Then after she had looked at him carefully and said

You were with Jesus from Nazareth. This man was with Jesus!

But in front of everyone Peter said
No, I am not! That isn't so! I don't know what you are talking about! Woman, I don't even know the man!

He went back out to the gate, and a rooster crowed.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from earthborn passions set me free,
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
with care and woe opprest;
let me thy loving servant be,
and taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
amid the battle's strife;
in all my pain and misery
be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
when flows the tempest high:
when on doth rush the enemy
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
that when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
and share thy joy at last.

WE DEPART IN SILENCE