

MAUNDY THURSDAY- ORDER FOR A COMMUNION SERVICE

The Preparation

The minister says:

Jesus said: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Let us pray.

We remember how Jesus the risen Lord was known to his friends in the breaking of bread; and how their hearts were set ablaze as they talked with him on the road. Lord Jesus, here in this church today, make yourself known to us in the breaking of bread, so that, having met you here, we may go from this place with hearts aflame with love of you. This we ask for your name's sake. **Amen.**

Prayers

Minister: If we tell God of our sin, we can depend on him in his goodness to forgive us. Let us ask his forgiveness now; let us pray.

O God, our Father, there have been many parts of this life of ours that have been unfit for you to see.

In our homes:

We have been careless and inconsiderate;

We have been moody and irritable and difficult to live with;

We have treated those whom above all we ought to cherish with a discourtesy we would never dare to show to strangers.

Response: **For this forgive us, O God.**

Minister: *In our places of work:*

We have not been as diligent as we should have been;

We have been afraid to think and to follow only truth;

We have not always borne each other's burdens and forgiven each other's faults;

Sometimes we have tried to offer to you and to others that which cost us nothing.

Response: **For this forgive us, O God.**

Minister: *In the Church:*

We have found your service sometimes a burden and not a delight;

We have not always shown the love that Christians ought to show;

We have been so immersed in the details that we have sometimes lost the vision of the eternities;

We have often been too satisfied with self and too critical of others.

Response: **For this forgive us, O God.**

Minister: *In life in the world:*

We have so often been careless in duty, slack in prayer, and blind to the things which should have been our chief concern;

On us there has been so little of the love which is the magnet to draw people to you.

Response: **For this forgive us, O God.**

Minister: That you have made us as we are; for the dream that will not die; that somehow we cannot sin in peace, for even in the mud we are haunted by the stars:

Response: **We thank you, O God.**

Minister: For Jesus Christ our blessed Lord: that he who knew no sin was made sin for us; that he came to seek and to save that which was lost; that he gave his life as a ransom for many; that he was obedient even to death, the death of the cross; that having loved his own, he loved them to the end:

Response: **We thank you.**

Minister: That he lived, that he died, that he rose again; that he is with us to the end of time and beyond, and that he is with us here today;

Response: **We thank you.**

Minister: Father, hear these our thanksgivings, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Invitation

Minister: Come, 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 gave himself for you. Lift up your hearts and minds above your cares and fears, and let this bread and wine be to you the token and pledge of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, all meant for you if you will receive them in humble faith.

O taste and see that God is good.

On the night on which he was being delivered into the hands of his enemies Jesus took a loaf, and when he had thanked God for it, he broke it and said: this means my body which is for you; you must continue to do this to make you remember me.

In the same way at the end of the meal he took the cup and said: this cup stands for the new relationship with God made possible at the cost of my death; you must continue to do this as often as you drink it to make you remember me.

Every time you eat this loaf and drink this cup you are publicly proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes again.

Draw near then with faith; receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was broken for you, and his blood which was shed for you, and feed on him in your hearts, by faith, and with thanksgiving.

The Final Prayers

All say: **O God, our Father, send us from this place with the light of your hope in our eyes, and the fire of your love in our hearts. Send us from this place conscious again of the unseen cloud of witnesses who compass us about, and certain of the presence of our blessed Lord. Send us from this place sure of the forgiveness of sins and of the life eternal, to which there is no end. Send us from this place sure that in this life you are with us, and that afterwards you will receive us into glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Minister: Let us be silent and in the silence let us make our own confession to God.

Silence

All say: **O God, our Father, we know that we are sinners, but we also know that we are forgiven sinners; help us here and now to accept the forgiveness and the absolution which you are offering to us. And help us to prove our penitence and our gratitude by going from this place to live with something of the loveliness of our Master upon us, so that others may know that we have been with Jesus. Amen.**

Minister: The Lord upholds all those who are falling and raises up those who are bowed down. Let us ask him for his help.

O God, bless and help both ourselves and others for whom we now pray:
Those whose minds are perplexed, and who have more questions than they have answers;
Those who have temptations the power of which makes them afraid;
Those whose hearts are sore and whose eyes have known tears;

Response: **Bless all such, O God.**

Minister: Those for whom things are easy, that they may be kept from pride;
Those for whom things are difficult, that they be kept from discouragement and despair;
Those who are regretful for the past or afraid of the future;

Response: **Bless all such, O God.**

Minister: Bless any in anxiety of mind, in pain of body, or in distress of heart.
Bless your Church here and throughout all the world; and so cleanse, purify and strengthen it that it may be a fit weapon for your purposes.
Bless our country, our Queen and our leaders, and in the days when decisions are difficult, guide them in the way that is right.
Bless those we love and those who are dear to us, as we name them now in the silence of our own prayers.

Silence

All say: **Father, from our deep darkness we come to your light,
from all our weakness to your peace and power,
and from our indifference to your great love;
fulfil your promise and turn none of us away;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Communion

Minister: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Response: **And also with you.**

Minister: Let us hear how Paul tells how this sacrament began:
The tradition which I have passed on to you goes right back to the Lord. That tradition tells that on the night on which he was being delivered into the hands of his enemies, the Lord Jesus took a loaf, and when he had thanked God for it, he broke it and said:
This means my body which is for you.
You must continue to do this to make you remember me.

Minister: In the same way at the end of the meal he took the cup also and said:
This cup stands for the new relationship with God made possible at the cost of my death. You must continue to do this as often as you drink it to make you remember me.
For every time you eat this loaf and drink this cup you are publicly proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes again.

The Declaration of Faith

All say: **We come to the Lord's table in obedience to the invitation and command of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.
To him we owe the assurance that our sins are forgiven
Through him we know that God is our heavenly Father.
On him alone we depend for grace to overcome all evil and to do the right.
Within this fellowship and with all his followers we will strive to maintain his honour upon earth.**

Minister: As Jesus on the night on which he was betrayed took a common loaf and a common cup of wine and used them to be signs of truth eternal, I take this bread and this wine to be set apart from their common use to this their sacred use this day.

Prayers

Minister: Let us pray.

O God, our Father, we know that you are always trying to speak to us in the common things and in the common experiences of life, and that in the midst of time you are always giving us glimpses of eternity. So let your Spirit be in us and upon this bread and wine today that through them we may enter into our blessed Lord and he into us, that –
they may tell us of his sacrifice; they may comfort us with his grace;
they may confirm us in his strength; they may confront us with his love;
they may fill us with his life.

As Jesus gave thanks, so let us give thanks.

O God, our Father, we thank you for this sacrament;
for all who down the centuries at this table have found the light that never fades;
the joy that no one takes from them;
the forgiveness of their sins;
the love which is your love;
the presence of their Lord:

Response: **We thank you.**

Minister: For all the means of grace:
for the church to be our mother in the faith;
for your book to tell us of your ways;
for the open door of prayer which you have ever set before us:

Response: **We thank you.**

Minister: For the memory of the unseen cloud of witnesses who compass us about, and for the presence still with us of those who are an inspiration:

Response: **We thank you.**