

Holy Thursday

The Mass of the Last Supper



The Parish Church of  
St Mary & St Giles,  
Stony Stratford

2021 Edition

## **Pastoral Introduction**

(This may be read quietly before the Mass begins)

*On this evening we come together as the local Christian community for the celebration of the Mass of the Last Supper, at which all priests con-celebrate, under the presidency of the parish priest (unless the bishop is present, when he presides).*

*The congregation are committed Christians, aware of the importance of the Mass, and to receive Holy Communion on this night they will have prepared themselves with particular care.*

*After the usual introduction to the Mass the priest greets those present with the words of the "Grace" after the example of the apostles who always used this as a greeting rather than a conclusion. The penitential rite is at the beginning so that we may prepare ourselves for the whole service. The Gloria is sung to a different setting to emphasise the festive nature of this Mass. White vestments are worn and the Gloria may be introduced by an organ prelude and the bells rung throughout. (The bells are then silent until the Gloria at the Easter Vigil)*

*After the Gospel and the Homily the parish priest would usually wash the feet of twelve of his parishioners, reminding us of his share in the ministerial priesthood and of the our calling to be servants of each other and of all people. During the current restrictions the Foot Washing is omitted this year*

*The Mass proceeds as usual with a special form of intercession and a prayer for peace at the Pax. After we have all received Holy Communion the Sacrament remains on the altar while we say the Prayer after Communion, then there is a pause while we prepare to take the Blessed Sacrament, in procession, to the altar of repose where after a period of prayer and adoration it is locked in the Tabernacle.*

*The priest and servers then return to the high altar sanctuary and all adornments are removed from the altar and all crosses are removed from the church or veiled.*

## THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

While the altar is stripped and other adornments are removed from the Sanctuary the people remain kneeling or seated in silence. The choir sing Psalm 22.

Once the Altar is stripped the lights will be dimmed. When the choir have finished singing the Psalm all leave the Church in SILENCE or visit the Altar of Repose for the **Watch of the Passion** which continues for one hour only this year.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

As the priest and ministers enter the Sanctuary the Introit Antiphon is sung:

But as for us \* it behoveth us to glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life, and resurrection, also, by whom we are saved, and obtain our freedom.

Ps. God be merciful to us and bless us \*  
and show us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us.

Priest: ✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: The grace and peace of God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

### *Penitential Rite*

The people are invited to approach the Mass 'with humble and contrite hearts' with these or similar words:

Priest: Brethren, let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

There is a pause for silent reflection.

All: Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love,  
and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,

forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light.  
**Amen.**

*The priest says the absolution:*

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

*The choir sing Harold Darke's Communion Service in F major.*

#### ***The Kyrie Eleison***

Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

#### ***The Gloria in excelsis***

Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee,  
we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,

## **THE PROCESSION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT TO THE ALTAR OF REPOSE**

*All Kneel.*

*The priest removes the chasuble and is vested in the Cope. He kneels, bows profoundly before the Blessed sacrament. He is vested in the Humeral Veil, rises and taking the Blessed Sacrament, holds it high and it is accompanied to the altar of repose while the people remain kneeling and sing the "Pange lingua" or another suitable hymn:*

#### ***At the Altar of Repose:***

*The Blessed Sacrament is placed upon the altar and the priest and servers kneel. The Humeral Veil is removed and the Blessed Sacrament is reverenced. All recite the "Tantum ergo Sacramentum":*

**Therefore we, before him bending,  
this great sacrament revere;  
types and shadows have their ending,  
for the newer rite is here;  
faith, our outward sense befriending,  
makes the inward vision clear.**

**Glory let us give, and blessing,  
to the Father and the Son;  
honour, might and praise addressing,  
while eternal ages run;  
ever too his love confessing,  
who from both, with both is one.**

*The Blessed Sacrament is placed in the Tabernacle and the servers lead the priest into the sacristy where he removes the cope and his alb, and exchanges his white stole for a purple one before returning to the Sanctuary for the:*

## *The Breaking of the Bread*

*The Agnus Dei* is sung:

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.

## *The Invitation to Communion*

*The priest elevates the Host and showing it to the Faithful says:*

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,  
    behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

## *The Communion of Priest and People*

*The priest then receives the Body and Blood of Christ and then the Blessed Sacrament is distributed to the people, the minister/s saying:*

The body of Christ.  
The blood of Christ.

*Each communicant replies each time Amen, and then receives.*

*During the distribution of the Blessed Sacrament the people may kneel or sit while waiting to go forward to receive Holy Communion and upon returning. Those not receiving Holy Communion may come forward to receive a blessing keeping their heads bowed as a sign to the priest.*

*An Anthem (Offertorium from 'Requiem' - Fauré) is sung.*

## *The Prayer after Communion*

*The priest says the Prayer after Communion; all reply:*

All: **Amen.**

with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## *The Collect*

Priest: Let us pray.

*Silence is kept and then the priest then sings or says the Collect:*

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.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*We sit for the readings and psalm.*

Lector: A reading from the Book of Exodus.

(12:1-8, 11-14)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 'This month is to be the first of all the others for you, the first month of your year. Speak to the whole community of Israel and say, "On the tenth day of this month each man must take an animal from the flock, one for each family: one animal for each household. If the household is too small to eat the animal, a man must join with his neighbour, the nearest to his house, as the number of persons requires. You must take into account what each can eat in deciding the number for the animal. It must be an animal without blemish, a male one year old; you may take it from either sheep or goats. You must keep it until the fourteenth day of the month when the whole assembly of the community of Israel shall slaughter it between the two evenings. Some of the blood must then be taken and put on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where it is eaten. That night, the flesh is to be eaten, roasted over the fire; it must be eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. You shall eat it like this: with a girdle round

your waist, sandals on your feet, a staff in your hand. You shall eat it hastily; it is a passover in honour of the Lord. That night, I will go through the land of Egypt and strike down all the first born in the land of Egypt, man and beast alike, and I shall deal out punishment to all the gods of Egypt, I am the Lord. The blood shall serve to mark the houses that you live in. When I see the blood I shall pass over you and you shall escape the destroying plague when I strike the land of Egypt. This day is to be a day of remembrance for you, and you must celebrate it as a feast in the Lord's honour. For all generations you are to declare it a day of festival, for ever.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*Responsorial Psalm*

(from Psalm 116)

R/. **The blessing-cup that we bless  
is a communion with the blood of Christ.**

How can I repay the Lord  
for his goodness to me?  
The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the Lord's name.

R/.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful.  
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.

R/.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name.  
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people.

R/.

Lector: A reading from the first letter  
of St Paul to the Corinthians. (11:23-26)

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which

## THE COMMUNION RITE

### *The Lord's Prayer*

*The priest invites the people to pray in these or similar words:*

Priest: Let us ask our Father to forgive our sins  
and to bring us to forgive those who sin against us.

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.**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.**

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

*All bow to those nearest to them as sign of peace.*

*The priest says the Prayer over the Gifts, to which all reply:*

All: **Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The priest says the Preface: all join in singing the Sanctus and Benedictus:*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*The priest says the Eucharistic prayer of thanksgiving, recalling the command of Jesus Christ, 'Do this in memory of me'.*

*The Priest introduces and all then acclaim:*

Priest: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

*At the Doxology at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, all join in the Great Amen:*

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

is for you; do this as a memorial of me.' In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.' Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation:

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

I give you a new commandment:

love one another just as I have loved you, says the Lord.

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## The Gospel Reading:

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: **and also with you.**

Priest: A reading from the holy gospel according to John. (13:1-15)

All: **Glory to you, Lord.**

It was before the festival of the passover, and Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father. He had always loved those who were his in the world, but now he showed them how perfect his love was.

They were at supper, and the devil had already put it into the mind of Judas Iscariot son of Simon, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, and he got up from table, removed his outer garment and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'At the moment you do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'Never!' said Peter 'You shall never wash my feet.' Jesus replied, 'If I do not wash you, you can have nothing in common with me.' 'Then, Lord,' said Simon Peter 'not only my feet,

but my hands and my head as well!' Jesus said, 'No one who has taken a bath needs washing, he is clean all over. You too are clean, though not all of you are.' He knew who was going to betray him, that was why he said, 'though not all of you are.'

When he had washed their feet and put on his clothes again he went back to the table. 'Do you understand' he said 'what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. If I, then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each others feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.

Priest: This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### *The Homily*

### *The Prayer of the Faithful*

Priest: My brothers and sisters, God our Father wants all people to be saved and calls us to the knowledge of the truth. Let us pray to him with all our hearts.

*Intercessor:*

Father,  
on this, the night he was betrayed, your Son  
Jesus Christ washed his disciples feet.  
We commit ourselves to follow his example of  
love and service.

Lord, hear us

All: **and humble us.**

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.

We pray for the unity of your Church.....

Lord, hear us

All: **and unite us.**

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe  
through their message.

We pray that your Church may share  
in the mission of Christ the redeemer.

Lord, hear us

All: **and renew our zeal.**

On this night, he commanded them to love,  
but suffered rejection himself.

We pray for the rejected and unloved.....

Lord, hear us

All: **and fill us with your love.**

On this night, he reminded them that if the world  
hated them it hated him first.

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.....

Lord hear us

All: **and give us your peace.**

Priest: God of love, our refuge and our strength,  
hear the prayers of your Church  
and grant us this night  
what we ask of you in faith.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS**

*The Antiphon is sung while the altar is being prepared and gifts of bread and wine are brought forward. The offerings of the people may also be brought forward. The priest says prayers of offering. If the Antiphon has finished the people join in the response:*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Having washed his hands the priest invites the people to pray:*

Priest: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**