

*Please come forward for communion as directed, or a prayer of blessing if you don't wish to receive communion. To indicate that you wish to receive a prayer of blessing, please hold this service booklet in your hand when you come forward.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament  
you have given us the memorial of your passion:  
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood  
that we may know your healing and wholeness in our lives  
and show forth the fruit of your redemption,  
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**An unfamiliar perspective? (4)** A servant who glimpsed healing and wholeness

*We pause to reflect.*

We **stand** to sing our next **HYMN**, during which the table and altar are stripped and left bare.

### **The Watch**

*The Watch is introduced.*

**BIBLE READING:** Matthew 26:36-46

*We remain seated as we sing:*

**Stay with me, remain with me here, watch and pray; watch and pray**

*At the end of the song, please feel free to remain for as long as you want in prayer, in the company of Jesus. You may also like to meditate on the following readings:*

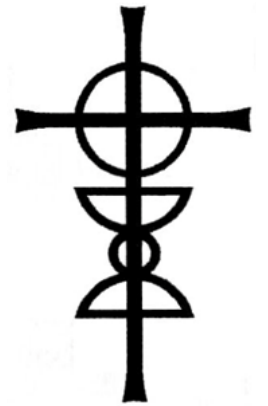
Matthew 26:30-75

Mark 14:26-72

Luke 22:31-62

*When you leave, please do so in silence.*

**St Barbara's Church  
Earlsdon**



**Maundy Thursday  
Service**

## A very warm welcome to our Maundy Thursday service

During the service, please join in with responses printed in **bold**.

Maundy Thursday\* is a special day for the church, when we remember the events of Jesus' final evening before his death. There are a number of important elements of that evening that we'll pick up during our service.

**The Gathering** Just as people prepared an upper room (probably in a guest house) for Jesus to celebrate the traditional Passover meal with his friends, so we his friends prepare our hearts and minds to worship God. After a dramatic dialogue helps us think about loyalty to Jesus, we acknowledge, in confession, the times when we are disloyal to him.

**The Passover meal** This celebrated God's liberation of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. We reflect on the significance of this revolutionary event as we listen to the imagined perspectives of two people getting the upper room ready for Jesus' Passover meal with his friends.

**The Lord's Supper** Jesus' words at the Passover meal give that celebration new meaning. He senses his death will be the means God uses to free humankind from all that oppresses and enslaves it, bringing it back into relationship with God. He 'becomes' Passover's sacrificial lamb, that symbol of God's liberating action. As we take communion, we remember his last supper, and his death that sets us free. Everyone who is baptised and would normally receive communion in church is very welcome to do so this evening.

**The Watch** After the meal, Jesus went out to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and find strength for the struggle ahead. A dramatic encounter helps us reflect on his way of nonviolence when faced with 'the powers that be'. As the formal part of our service draws to a close, we invite you to stay for as long as you wish, to pray and to reflect on Jesus' kingdom and the cost involved in its coming. When you leave, please do so in silence.

We pray that you will know God's blessing this evening as we see Jesus' last evening before his crucifixion through the eyes of ordinary people – people like us.

\* *Maundy* comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning "commandment", the word Jesus used on the evening before his death: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### BREAKING of THE BREAD

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.  
Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with St Barbara and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

## The Gathering

### THE GREETING

Praise our God, all you his servants:  
**those who fear him, both small and great.**

God of our days and years,  
we set this time apart for you.  
Form us in the likeness of Christ  
so that our lives may glorify you. **Amen.**

*We sit for the INTRODUCTION to the service* – the events of the day  
and evening before Jesus's crucifixion from perhaps unfamiliar perspectives...

*We stand to sing our OPENING HYMN*

*We sit for our first BIBLE READING: John 13: 36-38; 18:15-18, 25-27*

**An unfamiliar perspective? (1):** the woman who guarded the gate to  
the High Priest's house, and a bystander.

*We pause briefly to reflect before a time of CONFESSIO*n when we  
*acknowledge our failings before God, and ask and receive God's forgiveness.*

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ  
died for us.  
Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence  
and faith.

*Silence is kept.*

We watch at a distance,  
and are slow to follow Christ in the way of the cross.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We warm our hands by the fire,  
and are afraid to be counted among his disciples.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We run away,  
and fail to share the pain of Christ's suffering.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love  
bring *us* back to himself,  
forgive *us our* sins,  
and assure *us* of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Word of God

**BIBLE READING:** *Luke 22:7-13*

**An unfamiliar perspective? (2):** A man with an unusual job to do.  
**An unfamiliar perspective? (3):** Who got the upper room ready?

*We pause to reflect.*

*The **CHOIR** sing the anthem The Crown of Roses (Tchaikovsky).*

*We pray the **COLLECT**, the church's special prayer for today.*

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 Lord's Supper

*We **stand** to share the **PEACE** together.*

'Where two or three are gathered together in my name,'  
says the Lord, 'there am I in the midst of them.'  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*We share with one another a sign of peace.*

*We **stand** to sing our next **HYMN**.*

*We remain **standing** for the **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**.*

The Lord is here.  
**His 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.**

And now we give you thanks  
because, having loved his own who were in the world,  
he loved them to the end;  
and on the night before he suffered,  
sitting at table with his disciples,  
he instituted these holy mysteries,  
that we, redeemed by his death  
and restored to life by his resurrection,  
might be partakers of his divine nature.

**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.**

*Please **sit** or **kneel**.*