

St. John's Episcopal Church



Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026 – 7pm Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Processional: *O sacred head, sore wounded*

Hymnal #168

1. O sacred head, sore wounded, defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head, surrounded with mocking crown of thorn:
what sorrow mars thy grandeur? Can death thy bloom deflow'r?
O countenance whose splendor the hosts of heav'n adore!
2. Thy beauty, long-desired, hath vanished from our sight;
thy pow'r is all expired, and quenched the light of light.
Ah me! for whom thou diest, hide not so far thy grace:
show me, O Love most highest, the brightness of thy face.
3. In thy most bitter passion my heart to share doth cry,
with thee for my salvation upon the cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus moved to stand thy cross beneath,
to mourn thee, well-beloved, yet thank thee for thy death.

Lenten Acclamation:

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures for ever.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts be open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Kyrie Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples.

We ask for your mercy and your help.

When we take our ease rather than watch with you:

Lord, forgive us. ***Christ have mercy.***

When we bestow a kiss of peace yet nurse enmity in our hearts:

Lord, forgive us. ***Christ have mercy.***

When we strike at those who hurt us rather than stretch out our hands to bless:

Lord, forgive us. ***Christ have mercy.***

When we deny that we know you for fear of the world and its scorn:

Lord, forgive us. ***Christ have mercy.***

Absolution

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.***

Collect of the Day

Common Worship, Church of England

God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end and drank the cup prepared for him: may we who share his table watch with him through the night of suffering and be faithful. Amen.

First Lesson:

A reading from the Book of Exodus (12:1-14)

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 neighbor 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 judgments: 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.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 116: 1, 10-17

Let us recite the psalm responsively, alternating verses.

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

10 *How shall I repay the LORD **
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

12 *I will fulfill my vows to the LORD **
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

14 *O LORD, I am your servant; **
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

16 *I will fulfill my vows to the LORD **
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the LORD'S house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Second Lesson:

A reading from the 1st Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (11:23-26)

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn: *The Servant Song (vv. 1 & 2)*

Richard Gillard

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace
to let you be my servant, too. | 2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load. |
|--|---|

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John (13:1-17, 31b-35).*

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."
The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sequence Hymn: *The Servant Song* (vv. 3 & 4)

Richard Gillard

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through

Homily

Fr. Walter Connelly

Washing of the Feet

Ubi caritas: Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.

WLP 831

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Common Worship, Church of England

Lay Leader: In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father
through Christ the Saviour of the world.

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 *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 *and unite us.*

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through his disciples' message.

We pray for the mission of your Church.

Lord, hear us *and renew our zeal.*

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

We pray for the rejected and unloved.

Lord, hear us *and fill us with your love.*

On this night, he reminded his disciples that if the world hated them, it hated him first.
We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.

Lord, hear us *and give us your peace.*

On this night, he accepted the cup of death and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom. We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.

Lord, hear us *and welcome all your children into paradise.*

Priest: God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end and drank the cup prepared for him: May we who share his table watch with him through the night of suffering and be faithful. *Amen.*

The Peace and Announcements

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Invitation to the Offering

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works,
and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Offertory Hymn: Keep the Feast

Skye Peterson

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Joyfully we join you at your table
Pleading not our righteousness
By your wealth of mercy, we are able
Now to feast in confidence | 2. Who is fit to feast with such a Savior?
Who His sandals could untie?
Who are we that he would show us favor
Granting us this gift of life? <i>Refrain</i> |
| <i>Refrain: Take this bread and eat
Take this cup and drink
Remember how he loved us
Rejoice and keep the feast</i> | 3. Oh, happy sign of friendship & reunion
With the blessed Three-in-One
Foretaste of that glorious communion
Vision of the world to come. <i>Refrain</i> |

Doxology

(v. 3) Hymnal #380

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Father, we spread this table to remember the loving sacrifice of Jesus Christ, your Son.
Accept all we offer you this day. Bind us together in his love and in the love he has
commanded us to bring one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Australia (2009)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With all our hearts we praise you, faithful God. In the beginning, you called light to shine in darkness, you made living things to grow and flourish, and you created human beings in your image. You chose us in love, guided us by your presence and blessed us with your holy law. Yet we chose our own sinful ways. We broke your commandments, persecuted your prophets, forgot your wisdom, and time after time refused to answer your call. So, you spoke an eternal word in a human voice in Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary, Son of God. He called and people followed, leaving every other loyalty. He set us free to praise your holy name. But hatred and violence shouted Jesus down. Betrayed and abandoned and nailed to a cross, he laid down his life for the world he loved, and broke the chains of evil and death. Then you turned our sorrow into joy. On the third day you raised him up to lead your people into life. So, we praise you, holy God, with angels and archangels and all your faithful people:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest. [in the highest.]

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. [in the highest.]

On the night before he died, Jesus gathered with his friends to share a meal and wash their feet, teaching one more lesson of love. He took bread, blessed you, and broke it. He gave it to them and said: "Take this and eat it. This is my body."

He took a cup of wine, blessed you and gave it to them. He said: "Take this and drink it. This is my blood, sealing God's promise to forgive your sins. Whenever you do this, do it in memory of me."

As we share these holy gifts, we remember the Lord Jesus. For the love you taught us, the sacrifice you made for us and the hope you give us, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying you destroyed our death.

Rising you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory.

And now, faithful God, send us your Spirit to feed us with the body and the blood of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Make us one body in Christ. Send us as your messengers in the world and fill us with energy, courage and love. Now to you, most holy God, through Christ your Son and in the Spirit's power, we bring our worship and our songs of praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

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

*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, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Fraction: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

*Jesus, Lamb of God, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Savior of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, gentle Prince of Peace, grant us peace [grant us peace].*

The Invitation to Holy Communion

In fellowship with our sisters and brothers worshiping online, let us join together in praying for that spiritual communion shared by all Christ's disciples.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Mt 11:28-29). All those wishing to share in the life of Christ are welcome at God's altar.

Post-communion Prayer

*Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

Solemn Prayer of Holy Week and Blessing

Priest: Let us bow down before the Lord and pray for his blessing.

May the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
bring you by faith to his eternal life. *Amen.*

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the
Father's will, keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross. *Amen.*

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory,
set your minds on life and peace. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Dismissal

LEM: When the disciples had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed to the Father, 'If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me.' He said to his disciples, 'How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinners.'

Christ was obedient unto death. Go in his peace. *(no response)*

Stripping of the Altar by the Altar Guild

Go to dark Gethsemane

Hymnal #171

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away, learn of Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the judgment hall; view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of him to bear the cross.
3. Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
mark the miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete;
"It is finished!" Hear him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.

The Agony in the Garden according to St. Matthew (26:30-46)

Lay Leader: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again, he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Concluding Hymn: Stay with me

WLP 826

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray.

The congregation departs in silence.

Welcome to St John's Episcopal Church. All those wishing to share in the life of Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion. Proceed up the aisle on the right, allowing room on the left for others to return. You may kneel or stand at the rail to receive. Most people receive the consecrated Host in the hands, and some receive on the tongue. We have not returned to the Common Cup but offer individual Communion Cups. Please deposit the empty cups in the tray as you return. If you would prefer a blessing instead of Holy Communion, simply cross your hands over your chest as the priest approaches. Please join us for fellowship and refreshment in Ashworth Hall after worship.

Parish Calendar

- | | | |
|--------|-----|---|
| Apr 3 | Fri | Good Friday Liturgy, 12pm |
| | Fri | Stations of the Cross, 3pm (Winthrop) |
| | Fri | Good Friday Liturgy, 7pm (Winthrop) |
| Apr 4 | Sat | Great Vigil of Easter, 5:30pm (Winthrop) |
| | Sat | Vigil Feast in Parish House, 7pm (Winthrop) |
| Apr 5 | Sun | Ecumenical Sunrise Service, Winthrop Beach
(At the Crest Ave end on the platform below the green rails.) |
| | Sun | Easter Day, 9am |
| | Sun | Easter Day, 11am (Winthrop) |
| Apr 18 | Sat | Spring Craft Fair, Parish House, 10am-2pm (Winthrop) |

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. Walter Connelly, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Linda Graves, Layreader ~ Joanne Lancaster, L.E.M.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906