

The Service of Shadows

Preparation – *you will need to gather:*

- A Bible
- Small bread roll or flat bread or rice crackers
- Wine or juice
- Bowl of water, soap and towel
- You might want to light a candle

Music – O Sacred Head – Viola, Heather

Welcome / Introduction

It is not clear where the name “Maundy Thursday” came from.

Some believe it is derived from the Latin term *mandatum* which means “command”. On this night we remember the new command Jesus gave to his friends to love one another.

Others believe it is derived from the word *mundo* meaning “wash” and so we remember the time when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

Before we begin, you might like to pause this video for a moment and wash each other’s feet or hands.

[If you choose to wash feet, make sure you wash your hands afterwards.]

Tonight we remember the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his friends before he died, and we remember how in this meal he instituted what we call the Lord’s Supper, Communion or the Eucharist. The early church practiced this sacrament in conjunction with a whole meal. Tonight, because of our separation, we will share a time that reminds us of the experience of Jesus and the disciples.

I hope that on Easter Day, at 9.30am, you will be able to join us via Zoom to share in Holy Communion together as the Body of Christ gathered. [If you don’t have a computer, you can call in by phone – give Kath a call to get the number.]

Tonight we also remember Jesus’ arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and his abandonment by his friends. We will hear the story through to Jesus’ death, the readings for Good Friday. You might like to share in the whole experience tonight and spend Good Friday in reflection. Or you might like to break this into two parts – remembering the Last Supper tonight and listening to the service of Shadows tomorrow.

On Good Friday, you might like to engage in the Stations of the Cross experience put together by a number of people from this Synod:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLuRX3CkIYs&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0z_jwe9ypZNRAQTBIQ-7YkX7ME8iCHrhByJhTmAcMGNKV_WIV0V2iss8c

Tonight we are following the story as Mark's gospel records it. You might like to have your bible open and ready at Mark 14.

So we come to share this meal.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Saviour of all the world, what have you done to deserve this? And what have we done to deserve you?

You sit with your friends sharing a special meal of remembrance, you pray for them, you warn them of what is to come, you prepare them as best you can. And still they turn away. And still we turn away.

How often do we disown you?

How often do we turn and run at the first sign of trouble?

How often do we stand by as others ridicule you and accuse you falsely?

To the mystery of undeserved suffering, you bring the deeper mystery and miracle of undeserved love.

Forgive us for not knowing what we have done;
open our eyes to what we are doing now,
as through wood and nails,
you disempower our corruption and transform us by your grace. Amen.

God of all creation, you formed the mountains and filled the seas. You breathed life into woman and man and you watched as humanity made a mess of things. But in time, you sent your son to show us again how you created us to be. And your Spirit is with us still – guiding, inspiring and giving us all that we need to be your people once again.

God of mercy and of love, we thank you that your love is deeper than we can ever understand. Help us to seek to sink ever deeper into you, to allow you to embrace us, and to lift us up once again.

And we thank you for this meal. Thank you for the friends who share it and the hands that have prepared it. May we be strengthened physically by this food, emotionally by the support of our friends, and spiritually by your presence in our midst. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Sharing the bread

Mark 14:22

²² While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."

Take the bread you have prepared.

If you are on your own, break some off eat it remembering the words: "The body of Christ given for you."

If there is more than one of you, break the bread for each other and share these words as you do: "The body of Christ given for you."

Sharing the wine

Mark 14:23-24

²³ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."

Again share and/or drink as you remember the words: "The blood of Christ poured out for you."

Listen: A New Commandment

Intro to Tenebrae

The meal has ended, the table has been left, the betrayer is hurrying into the darkness. Now other shadows gather as Jesus, knowing what is ahead, sees one piece at a time fall into place.

When we face betrayal where do we turn?

To the one who knows our pain.

Tonight we walk through the shadows - we hear familiar words as if for the first time - because this is our story too.

THE SHADOWS

The Shadow of Denial: Mark 14:26-31 – Susan and Bruce Morrison

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.

The Shadow of Sorrow: Mark 14:32-42

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

The Shadow of Betrayal: Mark 14:43-45 – Margo and Bruce McNair

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.

Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him.

The Shadow of Desertion: Mark 14:46-52

Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

Then Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.” All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

The Shadow of Trial: Mark 14:53—15:15 – Sandra & Alan Fowlie

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” But even on this point their testimony did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

Jesus said, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’” Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of

them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

SECOND READER: While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed.

And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things.

Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over.

But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

The Shadow of Crucifixion: Mark 15:16-32 – Pam Waters

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting

him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

The Shadow of Death: Mark 15:33-47 – Shirley and Alan Rowe

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

PAUSE...

Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him

and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph.

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Sending

As we go out into the darkness know that all of this was for you;
our God who brought all of creation from nothing, loves YOU this much.