The Solemn Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

March 29, 2018 • 7:00 PM

Washington National Cathedral
THE HOLY TRIDUUM

The three days before Easter — Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday — are known as the Holy Triduum. During this time, our worship is experienced as one drama that unfolds in three acts, seamlessly recalling the suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The evening of Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the Triduum. This day receives its name from the Latin “mandatum” or the “new commandment” given by our Lord. At the Last Supper, Jesus washed his disciples' feet and commanded them to love and serve one another as he had done. Tonight begins with a festal character as we remember the joy of the institution of the Eucharist and the love and service which Jesus lived and taught. The mood turns solemn, as we fix our attention on the agony in the garden of Gethsemane, and the journey to the cross and crucifixion. The altar, symbolic of Christ, is stripped of its vesture and left bare for the solemnity of Good Friday.
The Entrance Rite

The people's responses are in bold.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele, BWV 654

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

INTROIT

A new commandment

Richard Shephard (b. 1949)

A new commandment I give unto you: that you love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another. (John 13:34-35)

The people stand.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Praise to the Holiest in the height

Newman

1. Praise to the Ho - liest in the height, and in the
2. O lov - ing wis - dom of our God! When all was
3. O wis - est love! that flesh and blood, which did in
4. and that the high - est gift of grace should flesh and
5. Praise to the Ho - liest in the height, and in the

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the God of our salvation.
Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are 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 ELEISON

Sung in Greek. Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The people are seated.
THE FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

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. 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

chant: H. Walford Davies (1869-1941)

O Lord, I am your servant.

The choir introduces the antiphon; then all repeat.

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.

How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his servants.

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

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the Name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Hallelujah!

The antiphon repeated.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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.

The people stand.
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 people 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.

The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.
THE BIDDING

Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by power, authority, or even by miracle, but by such lowly service. We all need to remember his example, but none stand more in need of this reminder than those whom the Lord has called into ministry, lay and ordained.

Therefore, I invite you who share in this ministry, the priesthood of all believers, to come forward, that we may together recall whose servant we are by following the example of our Master. And let us remember his admonition that what will be done for you is also to be done by you to others, for “a servant is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

THE MANDATUM

Those desiring to have their feet washed should follow the direction of the ushers. You may choose to have one or both feet washed. Those desiring to wash the feet of others are asked to touch the shoulder of someone who is washing feet and take his or her place at the basin.

ANTHEMS AT THE MANDATUM

Anthem at the footwashing

Douglas Major (b. 1953)

The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples, and had washed their feet, said to them: Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done. Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you. I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: that you have love for one another. Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give. My peace I leave with you. (John, selected verses)

Ubi caritas

Paul Mealor (b. 1975)

Sung in Latin. Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart. (Antiphon for Maundy Thursday)

Ubi caritas

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

The people stand.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are seated.
THE OFFERTORY

The people remain seated while an offering is received to support the Cathedral’s ministry of sharing God’s love with the world.

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle
R. Shephard

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle, sing the last, the dread affray; o’er the cross, the victor’s trophy, sound the high triumphal lay, how, the pains of death enduring, earth’s Redeemer won the day. Faithful cross, above all other, one and only noble tree, none in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peer may be; sweetest wood and sweetest iron, sweetest weight is hung on thee. Thou alone was counted worthy this world’s ransom to sustain, that by thee a wrecked creation might its ark and haven gain. With the sacred blood anointed of the Lamb that hath been slain. Praise and honor to the Father, Praise and honor to the Son, Praise and honor to the Spirit, ever Thee and ever One: One in might and One in glory while eternal ages run. Amen. (Venatius Fortunatus, 6th century AD)

The people stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

My faith looks up to thee
Olivet

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away; O let me from this day be wholly thine.
2. May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.
3. While life’s dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow’s tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

8
The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing.

Sanctus & Benedictus

Avon Gillespie (1938-1989)

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

The presider gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember Michael, our presiding bishop, Mariann, our bishop, and all who minister in your Church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, Peter and Paul, our patrons, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Notre Père..., Padre nostro..., Vater unser..., 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Sung in Latin.

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 people are seated.

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine from the chalice, guiding it gently to your lips; or you may dip the wafer into the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. Respond to receiving Communion by saying “Amen.” If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest.

During the administration of Holy Communion the laying on of hands and prayers for healing is offered in the Chapel of Saint John. Please enter the chapel by the ramp to the right of the pulpit.

ANTHEM DURING THE COMMUNION

Tantum ergo

Sung in Latin. Let us therefore, bowing low, Venerate so great a Sacrament; And let the old Law Give way to the new rite; Let faith afford assistance To the deficiency of the senses. To the Begetter and the Begotten Let there be praise and jubilation, Salvation and honor, And power and blessing; And to the One proceeding from both Let there be equal praise. Amen. (Saint Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274)
The people stand.

THE POSTCOMMUNION 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.

THE PROCESSION TO THE ALTAR OF REPOSE

The people kneel as able or sit as the Blessed Sacrament, representing Jesus, is carried to the Altar of Repose in the Chapel of Saint John. Tonight this chapel represents the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus asks his disciples to wait, watch, and pray with him.

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The altar is stripped of all ornaments and washed.

ANTHEM AT THE ALTAR STRIPPING

The Lamentations

Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

How doth the city sit solitary that was full of people; how is she become as a widow. She that was great among the nations and princess among the provinces; how is she become a tributary. She weepeth sore in the night and her tears are on her cheeks; among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her. The ways of Zion do mourn; because none come to the solemn assembly. All her gates are desolate; and she herself is in bitterness. The Lord hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions; her children are gone into captivity before the enemy. All they that go by clap their hands at her; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem saying: 'Is this the city that men called the perfection of beauty; the joy of the whole earth?'

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God. For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water. From on high hath the Lord sent fire into my bones and it prevaleth against them; he hath made me desolate and faint all the day. My flesh and my skin hath made me old; he hath broken my bones. He hath builded against me; and compass’d me with gall and travail. He hath made me to dwell in dark places; as those that have been long dead. I am become a derision to all my people; and their song all the day. Let him give his cheek to him that smiteth him; Let him be filled full with reproach. Is it nothing to you all ye that pass by; behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow. Remember mine affliction and my misery; the wormwood and the gall. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God. Remember O Lord what is come upon us; behold and see our reproach. The joy of our heart is ceas’d; our dance is turn’d into mourning. The crown is fallen from our head; woe unto us for we have sinn’d. For this our heart is faint; for these things our eyes are dim. Let us search and try our ways; and turn again unto the Lord. Turn thou us unto thee O Lord and we shall be turn’d; renew our days as of old. It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consum’d; because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. O Lord thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeem’d my life. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God. (Words selected from the Lamentations of Jeremiah by Eric Milner-White)

The Agony in the Garden is read.

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Matthew 26:30-46

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.”

All depart in silence.

THE WATCH BEGINS

All are invited to keep watch in the Chapel of Saint John until 11:00 PM. The Watch resumes tomorrow at 9:00 AM and concludes with Morning Prayer at 10:00 AM.

PARTICIPANTS

The Reverend Canon Dana Colley Corsello, Presider
The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan, Homilist
The Reverend Andrew K. Barnett, Gospeller
The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith, Assistant


Aaron Adkins and Miriam Young, Readers

Michael McCarthy, Director of Music
The Reverend Benjamin Pearce Straley, Organist and Associate Director of Music
George Fergus, Assistant Organist
The Boys Cathedral Choir

PERMISSIONS