

A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion

Maundy Thursday – April 1, 2021



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

Prelude: Elgar's Nimrod followed by Stay With Me (Taizé)

The Gathering of the Community

Words of welcome and introduction.

Dean: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Dean: This is the day that Christ the Lamb of God
gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.
This is the day that Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.
This is the day that Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet,
giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us.
This is the day that Christ our God gave us this holy feast,
that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim his Holy Sacrifice
and be partakers of his resurrection, and at the last day may reign with him in heaven..

The Collect

Dean: Let us pray.

O God, your Son Jesus Christ has left to us this meal of bread and wine
in which we share his body and his blood.
May we who celebrate this sign of his great love
show in our lives the fruits of his redemption;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: Praise to the Holiest in the Height (Common Praise #372)

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| 1. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways. | 4. and that the highest gift of grace
should flesh and blood refine;
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine; |
| 2. O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came. | 5. who in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his followers, and inspire
to suffer and to die. |
| 3. O generous love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail: | 6. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways. |

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Reader: 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.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31-35

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: 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.'

When he had gone out, 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.'

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon – The Right Reverend Susan Bell

'Ubi Caritas' by Durufle sung by Mark Russom

The Prayers of the People

The response in the prayers is:

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Confession and Absolution

Bishop: Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
God welcomes sinners and invites us to this holy table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Bishop: Most merciful God,
**All: we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Bishop: Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Peace

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

All: And also with you.

Hymn during the Preparation of the Altar: And now, O Father, mindful of the love (Common Worship #66)

1. And now, O Father, mindful of the love
that bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,
and having with us him that pleads above,
we here present, we here spread forth to thee
that only offering perfect in thine eyes,
the one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.
2. Look, Father, look on his anointed face,
and only look on us as found in him;
look not on our misusings of thy grace,
our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim:
for lo, between our sins and their reward
we set the Passion of thy Son our Lord.

3. And then for those, our dearest and our best,
by this prevailing presence we appeal:
O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast,
O do thine utmost for their souls' true weal;
from tainting mischief keep them white & clear,
and crown thy gifts with strength to persevere.

4. And so we come: O draw us to thy feet,
most patient Saviour, who canst love us still;
and by this food, so awful and so sweet,
deliver us from every touch of ill:
in thine own service make us glad and free,
and grant us never more to part with thee.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Prayer over the Gifts

Dean: 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.

All: Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Dean: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Dean: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Dean: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who for our sins was lifted high upon the cross,
that he might draw the whole world to himself.
By his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation
for all who put their trust in him.

Therefore with all the host of heaven who gather around your throne and the Lamb,
we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name:

**All: 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.**

Dean: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us
in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and
above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and
Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand
before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

Dean: On this very night when he freely gave himself to death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Dean: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Dean: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**All: 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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Dean: "I am the bread which has come down from heaven," says the Lord.

All: Give us this bread for ever.

Dean: "I am the vine, you are the branches."

All: May we dwell in Christ, as Christ lives in us.

Dean: The gifts of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Invitation to Spiritual Communion

Dean: Dear friends, I invite you in this moment,
wherever you may be, to receive Christ,
in communion with the saints,
and the gathering of God's people,
unseen and yet present with us now.

Many are made one.

Dean: We receive you Lord Jesus Christ,

**All: we welcome your presence in us,
and together proclaim our love for you;
with our hearts, minds, our souls and our strength,
with the saints we worship you,
with the angels we adore you,
with your whole Church we proclaim your reign.
Come to us, though many, and make us one in you. Amen.**

Dean: I invite you in the silence of your own hearts
or using the prayer on the screen
or one or more of the prayers in the order of service
to make your own act of Communion with Christ.

Silence is kept during which time the congregation prays one or more of the following prayers of reception.

Prayers of Reception

**One: I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ,
present in bread and wine, and present in your people,
who are gathered in spirit.
In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community.
May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart,
may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul,
may you, who gives yourself to us again,
fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing.
Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you
and for your reign of justice and peace increase,
that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day
when your kingdom shall come on earth as it is heaven. Amen.**

Or

One: Come Lord Jesus and make in my heart your dwelling place and home.
I seek to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength,
and so, through your presence in bread and wine
I receive you afresh and praise you for you are my God.
As you fill me, so may my love for you and for all your people,
rise and overflow, that with joy and thanksgiving,
I may serve you in the world you love. Amen.

Or

One: Jesus, I believe that you are present with us in the sacrament of bread and wine.
I love you and I desire your presence afresh in my life. Since I cannot now receive the
bread and wine of the altar, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite
myself to you; never let me be separated from you.¹

Or

One: Holy Jesus we receive you in this moment,
giving you thanks and praise that you make yourself present
to all your people in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.
Transform our hearts that we may shine as your light in dark places;
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
And this all, in love for you. Amen.

Or

One: O Loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world
and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist,
hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son,
I offer you praise and thanksgiving.

Even while separated from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life,
I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised
and with your Son who gave his life for us.
Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit
that I may be filled with your presence.

Jesus, as the hem of your garment, touched in faith,
healed the woman who could not touch your body,
so may the soul of your servant be healed,
for though I cannot receive you in the sacrament I can,
through this offering of my prayer, receive you in my heart;
grant this for Christ's sake. Amen.²

¹ Based on a prayer by St. Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori

² Adapted from a service of Spiritual Communion, Diocese of Chelmsford, Church of England

Prayers recommended for use by children:

One: Holy Jesus, thank you for loving us,
and thank you for the holy bread and wine
that reminds us that you are always with us.
Come and live in our hearts, so we may know your love,
and love others too. Amen.

Or

One: Jesus, you remind us in bread and wine that you are near to us.
Bring me nearer to you every day, and let me carry you in my heart,
to share your love with the world you made. Amen.

Or

One: Lord Jesus, thank you that you are always with me,
I pray that you would remind me to welcome you to share every day with me.
Thank you for loving me. I want to say that I love you too. Amen.

Or

One: Jesus, I want to follow you: to see you more clearly;
love you more dearly; and follow you more nearly.
So come into my heart, so that we may share life together. Amen.

After a time of prayer, we sing together....

COMMUNION HYMN: Thou, Who at Thy first Eucharist Didst Pray (Common Praise #57)

1. Thou, who at Thy first Eucharist didst pray
That all Thy Church might be forever one,
Grant us at every Eucharist to say
With longing heart and soul, Thy will be done.
O may we all one bread, one body be,
Through this blest sacrament of unity.
2. For all Thy Church, O Lord, we intercede;
Make Thou our sad divisions soon to cease;
Draw us the nearer each to each, we plead,
By drawing all to Thee, O Prince of Peace;
Thus may we all one bread, one body be,
Through this blest sacrament of unity.
3. So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,
May we be one with all Thy Church above,
One with Thy saints in one unbroken peace,
One with Thy saints in one unbounded love;
More blessed still, in peace and love to be
One with the Trinity in unity.

Prayer After Communion

Dean: Let us pray.

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. Write this commandment in our hearts; give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave his life and died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 26.30–46

Bishop: 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.'

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

During the stripping of the Altar, Psalm 22 is read.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.

They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.

All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

"He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.

I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

One: Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.

Many young bulls encircle me; *
Strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

They open wide their jaws at me, *
Like a ravening and a roaring lion.

I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax.

My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me; *
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.

Be not far away, O Lord; *
you are my strength; hasten to help me.

Save me from the sword, *
my life from the power of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth, *
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

I will declare your Name to my brethren; *
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

We depart this night in silence.