

Night Prayer for Maundy Thursday

You may wish to light a candle and place some bread and wine on a table for you to focus on in this worship.



The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33.27

Opening Sentences

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Pause and reflect on the day that is past.

Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

Bible Reading

Psalm 139

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

- 4 You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me,
your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me
and the light around me turn to night,'
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
- 14 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;
already in your book were all my members written,
- 16 As day by day they were fashioned
when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
- 18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand,
and at the end, I am still in your presence.
- 19 O that you would slay the wicked, O God,
that the bloodthirsty might depart from me!
- 20 They speak against you with wicked intent;

your enemies take up your name for evil.

- 21 Do I not oppose those, O Lord, who oppose you?
Do I not abhor those who rise up against you?
- 22 I hate them with a perfect hatred;
they have become my own enemies also.
- 23 Search me out, O God, and know my heart;
try me and examine my thoughts.
- 24 See if there is any way of wickedness in me
and lead me in the way everlasting.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

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.'

John 13:1-17, 31-35

Reflection

Prayers

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.

Merciful God,
we entrust to your unfailing and tender care this night
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us;
The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace. **Amen.**

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