

a transfusion of foaming blood
 sacrificed anonymously to save life.
 Miss Him when we call out His name
 spontaneously in awe or anger
 as a woman in the birth ward bawls
 her long-dead mother's name.
 Miss Him when the linen-covered
 dining table holds warm bread rolls,
 shiny glasses of red wine.
 Miss Him when a dove swoops
 from the orange grove in a tourist village
 just as the monastery bell begins to take its toll.
 Miss Him when our journey leads us under
 leaves of Gothic tracery, an arch
 of overlapping branches that meet
 like hands in Michelangelo's creation.
 Miss Him when, trudging past a church,
 we catch a residual blast of incense,
 a perfume on par with the fresh-baked loaf
 which Milosz compared to happiness.
 Miss Him when our newly-decorated kitchen
 comes in Shaker-style and we order
 a matching set of Mother Ann Lee chairs.
 Miss Him when we listen to the prophecy
 of astronomers that the visible galaxies
 will recede as the universe expands.
 Miss Him the way an uncoupled glider
 riding the evening thermals misses its tug.
 Miss Him, as the lovers shrugging
 shoulders outside the cheap hotel
 ponder what their next move should be.
 Even feel nostalgic, odd days,
 for His Second Coming,
 like standing in the brick
 dome of a dovecote
 after the birds have flown.

CLOSING CHANT

Khudaya rahem

(Lord, have mercy)

* * * * *

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 Wells and Abi Kocher 2016 interspersed with Mark's Gospel NRSV

Missing God by Dennis O'Driscoll

His grace is no longer called for
before meals: farmed fish multiply
without His intercession.
Bread production rises through
disease-resistant grains devised
scientifically to mitigate His faults.
Yet, though we rebelled against Him
like adolescents, uplifted to see
an oppressive father banished -
a bearded hermit - to the desert,
we confess to missing Him at times.
Miss Him during the civil wedding
when, at the blossomy altar
of the registrar's desk, we wait in vain
to be fed a line containing words
like "everlasting" and "divine".
Miss Him when the TV scientist
explains the cosmos through equations,
leaving our planet to revolve on its axis
aimlessly, a wheel skidding in snow.
Miss Him when the radio catches a snatch
of plainchant from some echoey priory;
when the gospel choir raises its collective voice
to ask Shall We Gather at the River?
or the forces of the oratorio converge
on I Know That My Redeemer Liveth
and our contracted hearts lose a beat.
Miss Him when a choked voice
at the crematorium recites the poem
about fearing no more the heat of the sun.
Miss Him when we stand in judgment
on a lank Crucifixion in an art museum,
its stripe-like ribs testifying to rank.
Miss Him when the gamma-rays
recorded on the satellite graph
seem arranged into a celestial score,
the music of the spheres,
the Ave Verum Corpus of the observatory lab.
Miss Him when we stumble on the breast lump
for the first time and an involuntary prayer
escapes our lips; when a shadow crosses
our bodies on an x-ray screen; when we receive

pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

The Job *from the Book of Judas* by **Brendan Kennedy**

Why didn't I get the job? The thought
Is something of an obsession.
If I'd been appointed I'd have changed
The image of the Apostolic Succession.

With my special talent who knows
What might have happened?
Would the church be facing
Its present state of spiritual collapse?

Peter was first choice.
Judas the traitor, Peter the rock:
Perish the labels; we soldiered together once.
Peter was able-bodied, quick-tempered, strong-voiced,
Good-hearted. But did he do the trick?
Or is the rock self-smashed into smithereens?
Why do the most living hearts
Attract the deadest has-beens?
How did that passionate adventure
Become a bad theological lecture?
How did the agony of loving eyes
Become a sordid political enterprise?
Although my soul is helplessly adrift
I have a few questions left.
There'll be no answers till the polished men
Get the smell of blood from the hill again.

Silence

CHANT Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
 Wait for the Lord. Keep watch, take heart.

Regret

Entering Jerusalem the crowd cried "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." Tomorrow they will cry "Away with him. Crucify him...We have no king but Caesar" (John 12:12 and 19:15)

Our lack of attentiveness is put to shame by creation

Gethsemane by Mary Oliver

The grass never sleeps.
Or the roses.
Nor does the lily have a secret eye that shuts until morning.

Jesus said, wait with me. But the disciples slept.

The cricket has such splendid fringe on its feet,
and it sings, have you noticed, with its whole body,
and heaven knows if it ever sleeps.

Jesus said, wait with me. And maybe the stars did, maybe the wind
wound itself into a silver tree, and didn't move, maybe
the lake far away, where once he walked as on a
blue pavement,
lay still and waited, wild awake.

Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that could not
keep that vigil, how they must have wept,
so utterly human, knowing this too
must be a part of the story.

Silence

SONG

1 Peace, perfect peace in this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

2 Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?
To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.

3 Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round?
In Jesus' presence naught but calm is found.

4 It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,
and Jesus call us to heav'n's perfect peace.

Resentment

Mark 14:10-11

Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. When they heard it, they were greatly

Praise

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them for ever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

'Will the Lord spurn for ever,
and never again be favourable?
Has his steadfast love ceased for ever?
Are his promises at an end for all time?
Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has he in anger shut up his compassion?'
And I say, 'It is my grief
that God has lost his strength.'

Silence

CHANT O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

Sleep

Mark 14:37-40

Jesus said: '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.

We may wonder how much the disciples drank at the Passover meal.

Noises in the night by Wendy Cope

Why are men so good at sleeping?
Is it just the drink?
While we're tossing, turning, weeping,
Why are they so good at sleeping?
Snoring, whistling, grunting, beeping --
No one else can get a wink.
Why are men so good at sleeping?
Is it just the drink?

Silence

Wakefulness

Jesus said: "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again, a little while, and you will see me." (John 16:16). We all have people we miss and long to see again.

Gethsemane by **Arna Bontemps** (USA 1902 – 1973)

All that night I walked alone and wept.
I tore a rose and dropped it on the ground.
My heart was lead; all that night I kept
Listening to hear a dreadful sound.

A tree bent down and dew dripped from its hair.
The earth was warm; dawn came solemnly.
I stretched full-length upon the grass and there
I said your name but silence answered me.

Silence

CHANT God to enfold you,
 Christ to uphold you,
 Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight;
 so may God grace you,
 heal and embrace you,
 lead you through darkness into the light.
 Many have trouble sleeping and sorrow is felt in body, mind and spirit.

Psalm 77 1-10

I cry aloud to God,
 aloud to God, that he may hear me.
In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;
 in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;
 my soul refuses to be comforted.
I think of God, and I moan;
 I meditate, and my spirit faints.

You keep my eyelids from closing;
 I am so troubled that I cannot speak.
I consider the days of old,
 and remember the years of long ago.
I commune with my heart in the night;
 I meditate and search my spirit:

ing communion we sing:

Ubi Caritas et amor;

Ubi caritas, Deus ibi est

Which means "Where there is charity and love, there is God."

(Taizé Community)

Verses (cantor):

1. Your love, O Jesus Christ,
has gathered us together.

4. Let us be one in love together
in the one bread of Christ.

2. May your love, O Jesus Christ,
be foremost in our lives.

5. The love of God in Jesus Christ
bears eternal joy.

3. Let us love one another
as God has loved us.

6. The love of God in Jesus Christ
will never have an end.

(words: Taizé Community; music: Jacques Berth)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament you have given us the memorial of your passion: grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives the fruit of your redemption, for you are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

*During the reading of the Gospel, church is stripped of hangings,
the table is cleared,
the sacrament is reserved on the altar for tomorrow
and we remember Christ praying alone in the garden,
a flickering light shining in the darkness.*

GOSPEL OF THE WATCH Mark 14:26-72

*Those who wish to stay gather around the Sacrament for the Watch,
singing:*

**Stay here and keep watch with me.
Watch and pray.
Watch and pray.**

*Stay or leave as you wish during the Watch, a time of readings, song
and silence.*

*As we leave, we keep silence, remembering how Jesus was left alone
and betrayed.*

Deacon: Christ is the bread of life:

**All: When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Blessed and broken God, be among your people who taste the bitter herbs of slavery and oppression; be close to your children who are poured out in grief and despair; remake the church, your Son's body, where it is broken by discord and dispute; and renew your creation in the joy of thanksgiving. Spread your table in the face of friends and enemies, that all may know your peace and gather in the company of your saints, where you, in the presence of Christ and the companionship of the Holy Spirit are all in all, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

President: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

We break the bread as Jesus did

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**All: Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in
one bread.**

Priest Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
All: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We sing: **Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us. (x2)
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

*We come forward in groups of about twelve, standing in a semi-circle to
receive communion. We wait together until we hear the words:*

The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered,
each to their own home, leaving Christ alone.

We remember God's faithfulness
as Jesus invited us to

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
Priest: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Meek and majestic God, you set aside the perfection of your Trinitarian life to create the universe, and you called the children of Abraham to be your priestly kingdom. You gave your people freedom in the parting of the sea and marked them for life with the blood of the Lamb. In Jesus you laid aside the robe of your majesty and knelt among your children, facing humiliation and rejection. In his agony in the garden and suffering on the cross you showed the world the extent of your love and your longing to bring us home to the throne where we shall join angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, praising your holy name in the unending hymn.

**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.**

Self-giving God, in Jesus you became the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world, and the living bread, broken for the life of your children. Come among us in the power of your Holy Spirit, that your people, as fragile and fitful as your disciples, may become your temple, and that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Reader: 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.'

A bell rings

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

(Mark 14:22-25)

A bell rings

HYMN

1 O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray
that all thy Church might be forever one,
grant us at ev'ry 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 We pray thee too for wand'ers from thy fold;
O bring them back, good Shepherd of the sheep,
back to the faith which saints believed of old,
back to the church which still that faith doth keep;
soon may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.

4 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.

William Harry Turton (1856-1938) based on John 17

Priest At the Eucharist we are with our crucified and risen Lord. We know that
it was not only our ancestors, but we who were redeemed and brought
forth from bondage to freedom, from mourning to feasting. We know
that, as he was with them in the upper room, so Jesus is with us now.

All Until the kingdom of God comes let us celebrate this feast.

Priest Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,
you bring forth bread from the earth.

All Blessed be God for ever.
Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,
you create the fruit of the vine.

All Blessed be God for ever.

We pray for the world

ERCESSIONS

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

All: 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. Amen.

Instead of THE PEACE we hear from St Mark:

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.' They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, 'Surely, not I?' He said to them, 'It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.'

(Mark 14:17-21)

Silence as we ponder the times the Church has brought the gospel into disrepute since then.

We stand for THE GOSPEL READING John 13.1-17, 31b-35

When it is announced:

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

We remember Jesus washing their feet

As people take their places for the foot washing, we sing:

1. Love is his word, love is his way,
feasting with all, fasting alone,
living and dying, rising again,
love, only love, is his way.

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

2. Love is his way, love is his mark,
sharing his last Passover feast,
Christ at the table, host to the twelve,
love, only love, is his mark.

3. Love is his mark, love is his sign,
bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
"This is my body, this is my blood."
Love, only love, is his sign.

4. Love is his sign, love is his news,
"Do this," he said, "lest you forget
all my deep sorrow, all my dear blood."
Love, only love, is his news.

5. Love is his news, love is his name,
we are his own, chosen and called,
family, brethren, cousins and kin.
Love, only love, is his name.

6. Love is his name, love is his law,
Hear his command, all who are his,
"Love one another, I have loved you."
Love, only love, is his law.

7. Love is his law, love is his word:
love of the Lord, Father and Word,
love of the Spirit, God ever one,
love, only love, is his word.

(words: Luke Connaughton alt; music: Anthony Milner)

After their feet have been washed we pray:

Priest: 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.**

**have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Priest: Let us pray that we may love one another as Christ has loved us.

Silence

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.**

**We hear how the gift of
Communion was given**

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

SONG

1. From heav'n you came, helpless
babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

2. There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn.
"Yet not my will but yours," he said.

3. Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space,
to cruel nails surrendered.

4. So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

(words & music: Graham Kendrick)

my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.' So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

Mark 14:12-16

HYMN during which the table is prepared

1 An upper room did our Lord prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there,
to celebrate their risen friend.

3 And after supper he washed their feet
for service too is sacrament.
In him our joy shall be made complete –
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

2 A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
he, by his cross, shall lift us up.

4 No end there is! We depart in peace,
he loves beyond our uttermost;
in ev'ry room in our Father's house
he will be there, as Lord and host.

CONFESSION

Deacon Our Lord Jesus Christ says: 'If you love me, keep my commandments.'
'Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.' Let us confess to almighty
God our sins against his love, and ask him to cleanse us.

Silence

Have mercy on us, O God, in your great goodness; according to the
abundance of your compassion blot out our offences. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Against you only have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Purge us from our sin and we shall be clean; wash us and we shall be
whiter than snow. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to
live in the power of the Spirit all our days. **Amen.**

We stand to sing THE GLORIA

**All: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth,
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:**

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday 2024

Remembering the Last Supper and the Washing of Feet

We Gather, as Jesus
and his disciples gathered

Music as we gather and prepare:

1. Father, who in Jesus found us,
God, whose love is all around us,
who to freedom new unbound us,
keep our hearts with joy aflame.

2. For the sacramental breaking,
for the honour of partaking,
for your life our lives remaking,
young and old, we praise your name.

3. From the service of this table
lead us to a life more stable,
for our witness make us able;
blessings on our work we claim.

4. Through our calling closely knitted,
daily to your praise committed,
for a life of service fitted,
let us now your love proclaim.

(words: Fred Kaan; music: German carol melody [14th century], harm Ralph Vaughan Williams)

Priest The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with you
All and also with you.

INTRODUCTION

St Mark tells us:

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks, Where is