

Resources for Maundy Thursday

References to additional resources in the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (BCW) are provided at the right-hand margin. Prayers and other texts marked DPG are by David Gambrell.

— — — Gathering — — —

CALL TO WORSHIP

What shall we offer for all God's goodness to us?

**Let us lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.**

Psalm 116:12-13
see also BCW 269

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, source and sovereign,
you put all power and authority into the hands of Christ—
Christ, who washes our feet in humble service.
Teach us to love one another as Christ has loved us,
so that everyone will know that we are his disciples;
through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Lord, we pray. **Amen.**

DPG
see also BCW 270

HYMN, PSALM, OR SPIRITUAL

CALL TO CONFESSION

Standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words as a gracious invitation for all to reflect on their lives, to repent of their sins, and to receive God's abundant mercy and love.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth:

1 Corinthians 11:28-32

Examine yourselves,
and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
For all who eat and drink without discerning the body,
eat and drink judgment against themselves.
If we judged ourselves, we would not be judged.
But when we are judged by the Lord,
we receive discipline so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

With confidence in God's abundant mercy,
let us examine ourselves and confess our sin.

CONFESSION OF SIN

A time of silence for personal confession may be provided before, during, or after the prayer of confession.

**Eternal God,
whose covenant with us is never broken,
we confess that we fail to fulfill your will.
Though you have bound yourself to us,
we will not bind ourselves to you.
In Jesus Christ you serve us freely,
but we refuse your love
and withhold ourselves from others.**

BCW 271

**We do not love you fully
or love one another as you command.**

**In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us.
Lead us once again to your table
and unite us to Christ,
who is the bread of life
and the vine from which we grow in grace.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*Still standing at the baptismal font, the minister speaks these words with confidence and joy.
At this sign *, pour water generously, slowly, visibly, and audibly into the font.*

* After Jesus had washed the disciples' feet,
he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?
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."

John 13:12-17

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

The sharing of signs of peace and reconciliation in Christ may follow.

— — — **The Word** — — —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

PSALM

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

GOSPEL READING

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

SERMON

CREED OR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The creed or affirmation of faith is an optional part of this service.

FOOTWASHING

Instructions for footwashing. When you come forward for the footwashing, leave your shoes and socks behind, bring your towel, and take a seat at one of the basins. Extend one foot and then the other over the basin (but not in the water) while the person who is washing pours water over your feet. The one who is washing will dry your feet with his or her towel. Then it is your turn to wash the next person's feet. Pour the water slowly and prayerfully over one foot, then the other; dry the person's feet gently with your own towel. You may wish to say: "How

beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news” (Isa. 52, Rom. 10). Then place your towel in the basket provided and return to your seat.

The Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003) also offers helpful instructions for carrying out the footwashing in this service; see pages 130-131. A musical refrain for use during the footwashing, based on John 13:34-35, is found in the appendix to this document. Another good selection is the Taizé song “Ubi Caritas / Live in Charity.” Be sure to have enough music planned for the duration of the footwashing; simple, repetitive refrains work best.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

These intercessions for the church and world are inspired by the lectionary texts for Maundy Thursday. A variety of congregational responses, spoken (Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer, e.g.) or sung (Kyrie eleison, e.g.), may be inserted after each petition.

Loving, listening God, ever-attentive to the voices of those in need,
we call on your name so that we might live.
Now hear our prayer:

DPG

For the church that bears Christ’s name,
that the world may know we are his disciples
by the love that we have for one another.

For leaders of nations and all persons in positions of authority,
that their lives may be marked by Christ-like service and love.

For all who are oppressed and living in captivity,
that they may escape from evil and death
to find the land of freedom you have promised.

For those who are hungry and thirsty this day
and for those who have too much,
that we may learn to share your generous gifts, O God.

For those who are dealing with loss or facing death,
that the presence of Christ may bless and keep them.

Other petitions may be included, or worshipers may be invited to offer their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Answer us in the day of trouble, O God,
so that we may lift up the cup of salvation
in the presence of your people,
giving thanks for all your goodness to us;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

— — — *The Eucharist* — — —

OFFERING

During the offering, as gifts are received (and, depending on the congregation’s practice, as bread and wine / juice are brought to the table) the pastor who will be breaking the bread and the elders who will be serving communion should wash their hands. A pitcher of water, basin, and clean towels should be prepared for this purpose; antibacterial soap or hand cleaner can be placed discretely among these items as well.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

BCW 274

In the Maundy Thursday liturgy, the Words of Institution are used as the Invitation to the Lord's Table (and not at the breaking of the bread).

GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCW 274-277

LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Since the Words of Institution are used at the Invitation to the Lord's Table, the bread may be broken in silence or with words from 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Instructions for communion. When you approach the table, cup one palm under the other and extend your open hands to receive the bread from the server. The server will place the bread in your hands; then you may dip it into the cup and eat. As you receive these gifts of grace and signs of love, appropriate words of response are "Thanks be to God" and "Amen."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCW 279

STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH

Worshipers wait in silent prayer as candles are extinguished and paraments, linens, banners, and other symbols are removed from the sanctuary.

Then all depart in silence.

If the church is not stripped:

PSALM, HYMN, OR SPIRITUAL

CHARGE BCW 279

There is no benediction in this service.

Appendix

Love One Another

John 13:34-35

David Gambrell

Flute

Em Am D

Love one another as I have loved you, love one another as
Love one another as Je - sus loves us, love one another as

Fl.

G B7 E Am

I have loved you, I have loved you:
Je - sus loves us, Je - sus loves us:

Fl.

Em B7 Em

this is my new com - mand - ment. this is our new com - mand - ment.
this is our new com - mand - ment. this is our new com - mand - ment.

fine

Suggestions for use in worship: (1) Have a soloist (or a series of soloists) sing the words of Jesus ("as I have loved you"), alternating with the congregation singing the other set of words ("as Jesus loves us"). (2) The song may be repeated a number of times during the communion of the people or footwashing.

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