



**A LATE EVENING OFFICE
FOR USE AT HOME
Thursday 9th April 2020
Maundy Thursday**

Blessed be our God for all time, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Glory to you, our God, glory be to you,
Holy Spirit, Comforter,
treasure of all goodness and giver of life,
come and dwell in us,
cleanse us from all sin,
and in your love bring us to salvation.

**Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

PSALM 134

Come bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord:
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
Lift up your hands towards the holy place:
and bless the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion:
the Lord who made heaven and earth.

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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 12:1-14

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 neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 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 judgements: 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.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 39

I said, 'I will keep watch over my ways, ♦
so that I offend not with my tongue.

'I will guard my mouth with a muzzle, ♦
while the wicked are in my sight.'

So I held my tongue and said nothing; ♦
I kept silent but to no avail.

My distress increased, my heart grew hot within me; ♦
while I mused, the fire was kindled and I spoke out with my tongue:

'Lord, let me know my end and the number of my days, ♦
that I may know how short my time is.

'You have made my days but a handbreadth, and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight; ♦
truly, even those who stand upright are but a breath.

'We walk about like a shadow and in vain we are in turmoil; ♦
we heap up riches and cannot tell who will gather them.

'And now, what is my hope? ♦
Truly my hope is even in you.

'Deliver me from all my transgressions ♦
and do not make me the taunt of the fool.'

I fell silent and did not open my mouth, ♦
for surely it was your doing.

Take away your plague from me; ♦
I am consumed by the blows of your hand.

With rebukes for sin you punish us; like a moth you consume our beauty; ♦
truly, everyone is but a breath.

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; ♦
hold not your peace at my tears.

For I am but a stranger with you, ♦
a wayfarer, as all my forebears were.

Turn your gaze from me, that I may be glad again, ♦
before I go my way and am no more.

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.

NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE: I Corinthians 11:23-29

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.

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. 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 judgement against themselves.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 13:1-15

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.'

NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:

according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen:

thy salvation.

Which thou hast prepared:

before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father:

and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

PRAYERS

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father through Christ the saviour of the world:

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

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.

COLLECT OF MAUNDY THURSDAY

Almighty God, at the Last Supper your Son Jesus Christ washed the disciples' feet and commanded them to love one another. Give us humility and obedience to be servants of others as he was the servant of all; who gave up his life and died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LENT COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR HEALTH WORKERS, CARE WORKERS AND KEY WORKERS:

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless all doctors, nurses, anaesthetists and hospital personnel who are called to care for the sick, especially those suffering from the Coronavirus. Give your strength to all who work in Nursing homes, and who attend those in need of care in the community. Protect all who work in essential shops, and businesses and supply companies. Help each to remember that they are fellow-workers with you; and give them such patience, skill and love that they may bring healing and comfort to those who they serve, and their loved ones. Guard them in their work from themselves contracting the virus, and watch over their families and loved ones in their anxiety for them. We ask this in the name of the one who spent himself for others with no thought for himself, even our Great Healer, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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.

COMMON COLLECT

Lord Almighty, come and scatter the darkness of our hearts

by the light of your presence;

that we may know you

the Light of the world

and the one true God,

blessed this night and for evermore. Amen.

HYMN: 439*

**Once, only once, and once for all,
his precious life he gave;
before the Cross in faith we fall,
and own it strong to save.**

**so he, who once atonement wrought,
our Priest of endless power,
presents himself for those he bought
in that dark noontide hour.**

**For, as the priest of Aaron's line
within the holiest stood,
and sprinkled all the mercy-shrine
with sacrificial blood;**

**We know, when we approach thy board,
that thou thyself art here;
and thus we show thy death, O Lord,
till thou again appear.**

Words: William Bright (1824-1901)

Tune: TALLIS'S ORDINAL Thomas Tallis (c.1505-85)

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the Almighty and merciful God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

Belfast Cathedral Closure

We regret that, due to current restrictions
as a result of the Covid-19 virus, Belfast Cathedral is closed.

Please continue to watch the website
for up to date news and online prayer resources.

HOLY WEEK 2020

Each Day to Good Friday 10th March

Our Holy Week Services for you to use at home each day
are available to download from the Cathedral Website.

Please also join us on the Cathedral Facebook page

**Tomorrow, Good Friday for a
Live Stream of the Seven Words of Christ from the Cross of Calvary
from 12 noon – 1pm
and Evening Prayers at 4.30pm.**

Next Sunday 12th April is Easter Day.

**Please join us for an Easter Day Service of Resurrection Hope
Streamed on the Cathedral Facebook Page
At 11.00am.**

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