

HOLY WEEK



Palm
Sunday



Maundy
Thursday



Good
Friday



Easter
Sunday

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

MAUNDY THURSDAY AGAPE

Thursday, 17 April, 6pm 2025

MAUNDY
THURSDAY



An Agape Meal and Maundy Thursday Service

The People gather in the Parish Hall to begin the service

This service weaves together parts of the Maundy Thursday liturgy within the frame of the Agape Meal as outlined in the Book of Occasional Services. It includes the reading of the institution of the Lord's Supper from the Gospel according to Luke, with responses in prayer from the Didache, and with bread and wine as part of the simple meal.

Opening Salutation

Leader Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

All His mercy endures forever.

Leader Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

All Have mercy upon us.

The Collect for Maundy Thursday

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, gave freely of himself to his disciples and established the holy sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that as we gather together tonight we may remember this great gift of love by Jesus Christ our Lord, and follow his command to love one another as he loves us; who gave himself for the whole world, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing Over the Food

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the coming days, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may attain to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Agape Meal Begins

The People are seated at the table and begin to serve each other and eat.

Homily 1 *(What an Agape meal is, how Jesus and the disciples ate a meal together and blessed bread and wine in a Passover meal)*

The Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 12:1, 3, 6-8, 11-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 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. 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. 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 judgments: 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 116:10-17 *The Psalm may be said responsively by whole verse or read together.*

10 How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the LORD.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his The People.

13 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his servants.

**14 O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your
handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.**

**15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the Name of
the LORD.**

16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his The People,

17 In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Praise be to God!

Homily 2 – How Jesus came to transform the Passover into the Lord's Supper

Leader: A reading from 1st Corinthians 11:23-26:

I [Paul] 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.

After a few minutes, this excerpt from the Gospel of Luke and these prayers are read/said.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke (22:7-23):

Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread had arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, “Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together.”

“Where do you want us to prepare it?” they asked him.

He replied, “As soon as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, say to the owner, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?’ He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal.” They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.

When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. Jesus said, “I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won’t eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.”

Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it.

Blessing Over the Wine:

Presider: Let us pray.

ALL: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth the fruit of the vine; and on this night you have refreshed us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider: Then he said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come.”

Everyone takes a sip of wine/grape juice and then Gospel of Luke continues:

Presider: Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it.

Blessing Over the Bread:

Presider: Let us pray.

All: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and on this night you have given us the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider: Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Everyone takes a bite of bread and eats it and then Gospel of Luke continues:

Presider: After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.”

“But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray me. For it has been determined that the Son of Man must die. But what sorrow awaits the one who betrays him.”

The disciples began to ask each other which of them would ever do such a thing.

The People share their remaining bread and the wine/juice and food for a few more minutes.

The Peace

Presider: Jesus said: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” The peace of the Lord always be with you.

People: And also with you.

The People exchange greetings of peace and make their way to the church and sit for the last prayers of the night.

Prayers in the Church:

Leader: **The lesson from Luke continues: (22:39-45):**

Jesus came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' [Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]

Prayers of the People, Form III - *The Leader and People pray responsively*

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, and lay leaders;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

A longer period of Silence is observed for several minutes. The People may add their own petitions silently. After some minutes in silence the following portion of Psalm 40 is read aloud by all

Leader: Psalm 40: 13-17: (aloud in unison)

13 Be pleased to save me, Lord; come quickly, Lord, to help me.

**14 May all who want to take my life be put to shame and confusion;
may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace.**

15 May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!” be appalled at their own shame.

**16 But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who long for your saving help always say, “The Lord is great!”**

**17 But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me.
You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.**

Leader: Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Conclusion of the Gospel of Luke Reading:

Presider: “When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, ‘Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.’”

Stripping of the Altar:

The congregation watches in silence as the clergy begin taking away the decorations and elements of worship from the altar area. The Priest washes off the altar as the last part of this activity... the altar representing the body of Christ being prepared for burial. The lights are dimmed, the clergy exit to the back of the church in silence. The people may remain for a time of silent personal prayer and leave when they are ready.

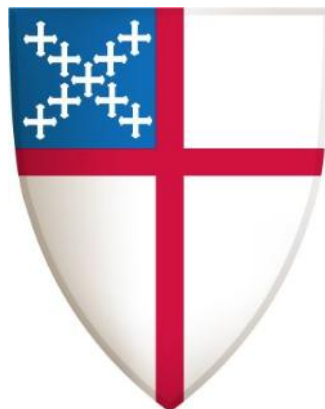
We invite you to spend some time in prayer tonight at home as you consider the night Jesus spent praying, knowing his death was coming, and that he would leave his ministry and teaching to others to continue, returning home to his place in heaven.

If you brought food items with you for the Agape meal, please take the leftovers with you when you leave the church.

Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.



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Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check ☐ here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



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Name _____ (first) _____ (Mid.) _____ (Last)			
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