



MAUNDY THURSDAY PROPER LITURGY
*With Footwashing, Holy Eucharist,
Stripping of the Altar, and Gethsemane Vigil Watch*

APRIL 14, 2022 - 7:00 P.M.

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Celebrant ✠ Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise: Hymn 315, *Song I*

Unison or harmony

1 Thou, who at thy first Eu - cha - rist didst pray
2 For all thy Church, O Lord, we in - ter - cede;
3 So, Lord, at length when sac - ra - ments shall cease,
that all thy Church might be for ev - er one,
make thou our sad di - vi - sions soon to cease;
may we be one with all thy Church a - bove,
grant us at ev - ery Eu - cha - rist to say
draw us the near - er each to each, we plead,
one with thy saints in one un - bro - ken peace,
with long - ing heart and soul, "Thy will be done."
by draw - ing all to thee, O Prince of Peace;
one with thy saints in one un - bound - ed love;
O may we all one bread, one bo - dy be,
thus may we all one bread, one bo - dy be,
more bless - ed still, in peace and love to be
through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
one with the Trin - i - ty in U - ni - ty.

Words: William Harry Turton (1865-1938) Copyright © by permission of Hymns Ancient and Modern Limited. Music: *Song I*, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt. Copyright ©1964, from *Hymns for Church and School*. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lesson: Exodus 12:1-14

Minister A reading from the book of Exodus.

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 neighbor 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 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.

Minister The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1,10-17

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 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 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 people,
- 17 In the courts of the LORD's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem .

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Minister A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

For 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 judgment against themselves. For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Minister The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Wonder, Love, and Praise 734, *Intercessor*

1. You laid a - side your right - ful rep - u - ta - tion
 2. You touched the lep - er, ate with those re - ject - ed,
 3. Help us to fol - low, Je - sus, where you lead us
 4. Draw us to you and with your love trans - form us:

and gave no heed to what the world might say;
 re - ceived the wor - ship of a wo - man's tears:
 to love, to serve, our own lives lay - ing down;
 the love we've seen, the love we've touched and known;

served as a slave and laid a - side your gar - ments
 You shed the pride that keeps us from the free - dom
 to walk your way of hum - ble, cost - ly ser - vice,
 en - large our hearts and with com - pas - sion fill us

to wash the feet of those who walked your way.
 to love our neigh - bor, lay - ing down our fears.
 a cross its end, a ring of thorns its crown.
 to love, to serve, to fol - low you a - lone.

Gospel: John 13:1-17,31b-35

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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. "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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Footwashing

Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by power, authority, or even miracle, but by such lowly service. We all need to remember his example, but none standeth more in need of this reminder than those whom the Lord hath called to the ordained ministry.

Therefore, I invite you who share in the royal priesthood of Christ, to come forward, that I may recall whose servant I am by following the example of my Master. But come remembering his admonition that what will be done for you is also to be done by you to others, for “a servant is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

Those having their feet washed come forward at this time. During the footwashing, the following anthem is sung

WLP 831

Descant

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

A

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

B

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

Translation: Where true charity and love abide, God is there.

Minister The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, "Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done."

People **Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

Minister I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

People **Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

Minister By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

The Prayers of the People, Form V

BCP p. 389

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy".

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in positions of public trust especially Joseph, JB, Hal, and all executive, legislative, and judicial officials, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers, especially Little Bobby, Deane, Shirley, Chris, Rhonda, Margaret, Lance, Richard, Mary Jane, JoAnn, Anita, Troy, Ben and Family, Lane, Lewis, Sue, John, Brooke, Jimmie, Sandy, Earl, Justin, Doris, Kerry, Liz, Dennis, Tonya, Christa, Erin, Maria, Mike, Donna, Cory, Dixie, Nicholas, David, Joel, Kathy, Melanie, the people of Ukraine; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Andrew, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God. **To you, O Lord our God.**

Silence. The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Celebrant
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
 It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People (S 114, H. Willan)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
 Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
 - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. ☩

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." ✠ 🔔🔔🔔

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." ✠ 🔔🔔🔔

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. ✠ Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

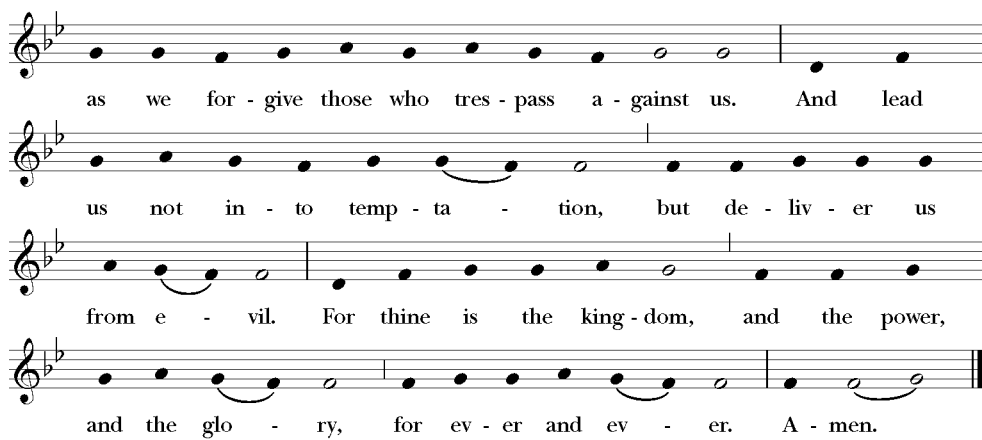
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ✠ 🔔

People
A-men.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,



as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
 us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
 from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
 and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: *Agnus Dei*, H. Willan (Hymnal S 158)



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
 way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
 on us. O Lamb of God, that
 ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
 mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
 God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
 world, grant us thy peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. Communicants may receive the blessed host in the hand, held out one on top of the other, or upon the tongue. A Eucharistic Minister administers the chalice which may be received by drinking or intinction. For intinction, leave the host in the hand, and the Minister will dip the host and return it to the communicant. Self-intinction is not permitted. Reception in one kind is sufficient to fully participate in the Sacrament. Arms across the chest indicates a reception of a blessing instead of Communion.

[An Act of Spiritual Communion and additional prayers and devotions from the Book of Common Prayer may be found here.](#)

Hymn 171, *Petra*

1 Go to dark Geth - se - ma - ne, ye that feel the tempt-er's power;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
3 Cal-vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,

your Re-deem - er's con - flict see, watch with him one bit - ter hour;
O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark the mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete;

turn not from his griefs a - way, learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - fering, shame, or loss; learn of him to bear the cross.
"It is fi - nished!" hear him cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854) Music: *Petra*, Richard Redhead (1820-1901)

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Procession to the Altar of Repose

Hymn 329

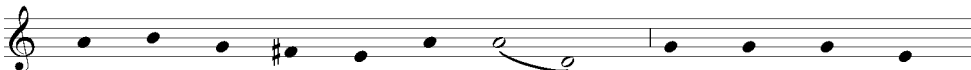
The congregation is invited to kneel for this hymn and the Stripping of the Altar. During the hymn, the blessed Sacrament is processed to the Altar of Repose in preparation for the Watch to follow the service.



1 Now, my tongue, the mys - tery tell - ing of the glo - rious
2 Given for us, and con - de - scend - ing to be born for
3 That last night at sup - per ly - ing mid the twelve, his
4 Word made flesh, the bread he tak - eth, by his word his
*5 There - fore we, be - fore him bend - ing, this great Sac - ra -
*6 Glo - ry let us give and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



1 Bo - dy sing, and the Blood, all price ex - cell - ing,
2 us be - low, he with us in con - verse blend - ing
3 cho - sen band, Je - sus, with the Law com - ply - ing,
4 Flesh to be; wine his sa - cred Blood he mak - eth,
5 ment re - vere; types and sha - dows have their end - ing,
6 and the Son, hon - or, thanks, and praise ad - dress - ing,



1 which the Gen - tiles' Lord and King, once on earth a -
2 dwelt, the seed of truth to sow, till he closed with
3 keeps the feast its rites de - mand; then, more pre - cious
4 though the sens - es fail to see; faith a - lone the
5 for the new - er rite is here; faith, our out - ward
6 while e - ter - nal a - ges run; ev - er too his



1 mong us dwell - ing, shed for this world's ran - som - ing.
2 won - drous end - ing his most pa - tient life of woe.
3 food sup - ply - ing, gives him - self with his own hand.
4 true heart wak - eth to be - hold the mys - ter - y.
5 sense be - friend - ing, makes our in - ward vi - sion clear.
6 love con - fess - ing who from both with both is One.

Celebrant They divide my garments among them;

People They cast lots for my clothing.

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? * and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?
- 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; * by night as well, but I find no rest.
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, * enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; * they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; * they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, * scorned by all and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; * they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- 8 "He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; * let him rescue him, if he delights in him."
- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, * and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
- 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; * you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, * and there is none to help.
- 12 Many young bulls encircle me; * strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
- 13 They open wide their jaws at me, * like a ravening and a roaring lion.
- 14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; * my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- 15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; * and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
- 16 Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; * they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.
- 17 They stare and gloat over me; * they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.
- 18 Be not far away, O LORD; * you are my strength; hasten to help me.
- 19 Save me from the sword, * my life from the power of the dog.
- 20 Save me from the lion's mouth, * my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.
- 21 I will declare your Name to my brethren; * in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- 22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; * stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; * but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; * I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: * "May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, * and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; * he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; * all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; * they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn * the saving deeds that he has done.

Celebrant They divide my garments among them;

People They cast lots for my clothing.

Today's liturgy concludes in silence without blessing or dismissal.

The Watch

All are invited to stay for the Watch which follows as we watch and pray with the Lord. Materials are provided for use throughout the Hour. You may use all, some, or none of the provided materials at your discretion. The Watch begins with the reading of the Agony in the Garden (Matthew 26:36-46) and is characterized predominantly by silence. Following the Watch, the Sacrament will repose in the Baptistry until Good Friday.

Continued on next page.

AN HOUR WITH JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Adapted from the St. Augustine's Prayer Book

Background on the holy hour: The custom of spending an hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament arose from the desire of devout souls to give an affirmative answer to the sorrowful question of the Saviour in Gethsemane, Could ye not watch with me one hour?

Alternative and/or additional suggestions to the following materials may be found at the end.

MATTHEW 26: 36-46, THE AGONY OF JESUS IN THE GARDEN

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

1. GOD'S PRESENCE WITH ME AND BEFORE ME

"Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane."

God is everywhere. There is no spot in heaven or in earth where he is not present. From the first moment of my existence to the present moment, I have been in God's presence. Everywhere. At all times. Often I forget this truth. Often I go on in the actions of life without a thought of God. But here today I will remember that I am in the presence of God.

Psalm 139:1-16

- 1 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 trace my journeys and my resting-places * and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, * but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before * and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; * it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? * 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 will lead me * and 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 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright 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 will thank you because I am marvelously made; * your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 My body was not hidden from you, * while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15
- 16 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; * they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! * how great is the sum of them!

God is before me here on the altar in a very definite and special way. God is here under a visible form. It is very hard for me to realize God's presence because I cannot see him. And God longs to have me know his presence, because he loves me. Once, long ago, God became Man and men could see God with their eyes: A baby lying in the manger. A lad standing in the temple; A man in the garden of Gethsemane. When men saw Jesus, they saw God in the form of man.

But Jesus has ascended into heaven and I cannot see him as could men of old. Today, however, he comes to the altar in another form--the form of bread. Beneath this common element of bread is hidden all the splendors of the glorified manhood of Jesus as well as all the glories of his Godhead. Jesus, all he is today, glorified and enthroned in heaven, is before me here on the altar. He reigns here before me: My Jesus, my Saviour, my Lord, my God. I cannot understand how this can be. No one can understand this mighty mystery. But I believe: "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief!"

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are my God: who made me; who has given me everything; who loves me as no one else will ever love me; who alone can understand completely the secrets of my heart. I believe that you are here because you love me and could not leave me alone on earth; because you know my miseries, and wish me to be able always to find here the heart of a true friend, a heart that will answer the longings of my own heart. I believe that you are here to help me attain the happiness of heaven; to find in your presence the solace of which I stand in need; to purify

me in your precious blood; to nourish me with your life in Holy Communion. Therefore, my Jesus, I adore thee.

Jesus, my Lord, my God, my all, how can I love thee as I ought? and how revere this wondrous gift, so far surpassing hope or thought? Jesus, my Lord, I thee adore. O make me love thee more and more.

Had I but Mary's heart to love thee with, my dearest king, O, with what bursts of fervent praise thy goodness, Jesus, would I sing! Jesus, my Lord, I thee adore, O make me love thee more and more.

O see! within a creature's hand the vast Creator deigns to be, reposing infant like, as thou on Joseph's arm or Mary's knee. Jesus, my Lord, I thee adore, O make me love thee more and more.

Thy body, soul, and godhead, all! O mystery of love divine! I cannot compass all I have, for all thou hast and art are mine. Jesus, my Lord, I thee adore. O make me love thee more and more.

Sound, sound his praises higher still, and come, ye angels, to our aid. 'Tis God! 'tis God! the very God, whose power both man and angels made! Jesus, my Lord, I thee adore. O make me love thee more and more.

II. MY SINS

"Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation."

I look at Jesus prostrate in agony in the moonlit garden. Why this intensity of suffering? Because he is feeling the weight of human sin. In the upper room a few moments ago, he made himself the victim of sin and offered his life to pay the price of man's sin, saying, "This is my blood ... which is shed ... for the remission of sins." Now, in the garden, he who is absolutely sinless, feels the weight of the sins he has taken upon himself. Sin closes in upon him, every sin ever committed by every man, woman and child: every sin which shall ever be committed to the end of time. All sin is assumed by Jesus, the all-holy. I try to think what that means: every sin ... ever committed ... by anyone ... from the beginning of the world until its end.....all descending upon this one person who must bear every single sin, great or small. And as I hear him cry out in horror, I realize that my own sins are part of this fearful burden. Jesus is feeling the weight of the sins that I myself have committed. I have a part in the sin which causes this dreadful agony of Jesus in the garden!

Jesus knows my sins all too well. Do I know them? All of them? As I watch Jesus here, I begin to realize dimly how dreadful my sins are. I, too, begin to feel something of their weight. So I stop here awhile and look into my heart to discover my sins in order that I may express my sorrow, in order that I may confess them, one by one, to Jesus.

O blessed Jesus, who hast given to me the picture of the true human life, and who dost reveal to me the ugliness of human sin: give me the grace to see my sins, my shortcomings, my negligence which so burden thee in Gethsemane, that I may confess them with that sorrow which I must have if thy Cross and Passion are to save me from hell which I deserve. Amen.

Now I spend some time in self examination....and this, dear Jesus, is what I really am; So weak, so disfigured, so soiled, so unclean! What a plight to be in! Yet, O my saviour, it is just because I see my misery. Just because I see how much I have hurt you. Just because I see how loathsome these sins are to you that I am urged onward by the necessity of remaining in your presence. For you are my very life, without you, I am surely lost.

Certainly, I have proved myself an ungrateful friend. How many times you have filled me with joy in Holy Communion -- and I? I have gone away from you and satisfied my desires and whims with poisonous fruit. How many times have you enfolded me in the arms of love...and I? I gave you the kiss of Judas.

Still, despite my sins, I feel the need of being with you. For, without you, life is nothing but a heavy burden. What would life be if I were forced to wander forever among the lost? What happiness could I expect from Satan? What rest? What comfort? What peace? I cannot face either life or death apart from you.

It was your lips which spoke the words, "Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee." It was you who said to the penitent Magdalene, "Thy faith hath saved thee, Go in peace." So I trust in your love and mercy. Even though I had committed these sins, you drew me here to yourself. You offered me a place here as a worshipper, so I am here.

I cannot offer you anything to make up for my sins; I have nothing of my own with which to pay for my violations of your love; But I confess my unworthiness, acknowledge my faithlessnesses with real sorrow, throwing myself upon your love and mercy. Jesus, my Jesus, I am sorry. I beg your pardon. I reach out suppliant beggar's hands.

Jesus, my Jesus, wash me in your precious blood. Smile upon me again.

III. INTERCESSIONS

"Thy will be done"

I look again at Jesus prostrated in agony in the moonlight. I have realized that the hideousness of sin is the reason for this suffering. I have tried to face my own part in his agony and to be sorry for my own sins. Now I can go a step further. Jesus suffers because he is feeling the results of sin. Sin always means suffering. As I stay here with Jesus, I can see that the agonies of the world today are the direct results of man's violation of God's holy will. Sin upsets God's plan for man's peace and happiness and brings strife and pain to the innocent as well as to the guilty. So I will turn my

energies to the work of praying for others. I will think of each subject and lift it up to God, asking him to accept Jesus' suffering for sin and to accomplish his will in that situation or concerning that person. Then I know all will be well.

So I pray for:

- The world and peoples of the world.
- My country, its officials, people and institutions.
- Christianity throughout the world ---Catholic and Protestant.
- My own part of the Catholic Church.
- My own parish.
- Those near and dear to me.
- My enemies and those whom I naturally dislike.
- The departed.

Now I gather all of my intercessions up into the following: Most sweet Jesus, redeemer of the human race, look down upon me humbly prostrate before thine altar. I am thine, and thine I wish to be; but to be more surely united to thee, behold, I hereby freely consecrate myself today to thy most sacred heart.

Many indeed have never known thee; many, too, despising thy laws, have rejected thee. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to thy sacred heart. Be thou king, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken thee, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned thee. Grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house lest they die of wretchedness and hunger. Be thou king of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions or whom discord keeps away from thy Church and call them back to the harbour of truth and unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock and one shepherd. Be thou king of all those who, throughout the world, are still worshippers of any sort of idols and refuse not to draw them all into the light and kingdom of God. Grant, O lord, to thy Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give peace and order to all nations, and make the whole earth resound from pole to pole with one glad cry; praise to the sacred heart that wrought our salvation, to that heart be glory and honour, for ever and ever. Amen.

IV. FOR MYSELF

"He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee."

Jesus graciously invites men to be with him in his agony in order that he may bless them. He has invited me to be with him. What blessings would I seek from him for myself?

First I ask him for my spiritual needs: For light and grace to live faithfully in accordance with the wills of my heavenly Father; to develop in his love and in his service; to grow more and more like him; to meet the temptations and difficulties of life; to persevere in the Christian life to the end; and for the grace to die a good and happy death.

Then I ask him for any earthly gifts which I may desire. Here I must be willing to go without any of these things if God does not want me to have it, because I trust the wisdom and the love of my heavenly Father. All through my petitions for myself and for others must run that thread of submission to the Father's will expressed by Jesus in the garden in the words, "Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Yet, as a child brings his requests to an earthly Father, so I now bring my requests to Jesus

V. CLOSING DEVOTIONS

"Arise, let us be going"

My watch with Jesus draws to a close. I have spent this time with him in the work of adoration, penitence, intercession and petition. Now I must go back into my daily life again. The world into which I go will be the same as when I came here an hour ago. I shall have the same problems to face, the same circumstances in which to live. But I, who live in these circumstances and face these problems, am not the same. For I have been here with Jesus. I have opened my heart to him. I have placed my problems at his feet in the Garden. I am taking out into the world a new strength, a new power. Jesus goes out into the world with me, in my heart.

And before I go, I stop a moment and consider. In what particular thing is my life going to be different because I have been here in the garden with Jesus? Just where am I going to act differently in regard to my particular circumstances in the world? I will make one special, very definite, resolution about my life before I go ... Now I once more bow in adoration.

Dear Saviour, I have now only a few moments of my watch left. Here before you in your sacred presence in the blessed Sacrament, I humble myself, I bow low in adoration. O Jesus, you are God. And I? What am I? Without you I am nothing; yes, less than nothing because I have so often hurt you by my sins. Yet with you I am greater than an angel, for the Blessed Sacrament was not instituted for angels; they can neither eat your Flesh nor drink your blood. Wherefore, dear Saviour, miserable as I am, I bow low before you, profoundly I adore you, all my greatness comes from you, and I prostrate myself before you.

My Jesus, I am but a handful of dust yet you have made me a mighty thing. You have made me able to worship at your throne, both here and in eternity. To adore you is the mightiest act a creature can perform and I adore you. I adore you who are holiness itself. You are the source of all holiness, without you there is nothing in life but emptiness, pain, fear, hopeless weariness. I adore you because you are the mighty Lord of all things, the Sovereign Master of the universe; all creatures in heaven and on earth are dependent upon you. I adore you because you dwell in inaccessible heights, yet you come in so humble a form that I may look upon the veils of your presence here unafraid, with confidence, in intimate love.

You are God, Eternal, Infinite, everywhere present, all-knowing, Almighty. All-wise. Holiness itself. Infinitely good. Most faithful. The perfection of bliss. Life itself. Eternal love. Yet despite all this, you have humbled yourself to the littleness, the frailty, the silence of the Sacred Host. Is there a place or a position of lowliness in the whole universe that you have not already taken?

Though it is impossible for me to abase myself as much as you, yet I can at least wish to humble myself in imitation of you, I can at least try to forget myself and be willing to bear my cross daily and I beg you, dear Jesus, help me to do these things.

So, dear Saviour, I must go, leaving your sacred sacramental presence; but I pray you, enter into my heart, so that, going, I leave you not behind, so that, going back into the world, you may go with me.

And one final prayer I make my Jesus: when I must face my last agony and enter death, when I must stand before your dreadful judgment seat, when I must see you as you really are, all the glories of your Godhead and manhood revealed in glistering light: I beg that you will remember then, O Jesus, that I knelt here today in adoration of you, hidden beneath this outward sign; that I watched with you in your human agony; that, although I could not see you with my outward eyes, still I did not deny your presence, but rather hailed thee present here in the Sacred Host.

And, in that dread hour of my agony and death, dear Jesus, remembering all this, take me to yourself, for ever and ever. Amen.

ALTERNATIVE/ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE HOLY HOUR

Scripture

Daily Office: Evening Prayer (BCP p. 61/115) or Compline (BCP p. 127)

Psalms (BCP p. 585-808)

Prayers and Thanksgivings (BCP p. 814-841)

The Great Litany (BCP p. 148)

Silent Contemplation/Meditation