

*in view of*

G O D ' S  
M E R C Y



MAUNDY THURSDAY:  
*Mercy in Bread and Wine*

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# G O D ' S M E R C Y

MAUNDY THURSDAY

## *Mercy in Bread and Wine*

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ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Maundy Thursday is a day when we taste and see that we are forgiven and free in view of God's mercy toward us in the Lord's Supper. We, in turn, are called by God, especially on this day when Christ commanded us to love, to be living sacrifices for him, displaying our devotion to him in word and deed. Jesus gives us his very body and blood in the sacrament of Holy Communion first instituted in the Upper Room. This worship service for Maundy Thursday by theology professor David Peter nourishes us with the meaning behind God's mercy made manifest in bread and wine.

For each service, the kit contains: an order of service • sermon • children's message • prayers • music for the accompanist

ORDERING INFORMATION

Additional resources are available from Creative Communications for the Parish. Contact us for current pricing and availability. Call us at 1-800-325-9414. Or visit our website:  
[www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com).

### **Blank Bulletins for the Holy Week and Easter Services:**

Code **GMWB** • Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday)

Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 11"

Code **GMWD** • Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday)

Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 14"

Code **GMWC** • Easter Sunday

Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 11"

Code **GMWE** • Easter Sunday

Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 14"

### **A Complete Series for the Weeks of Lent Is Available:**

Those who desire may supplement this service with other services for all of Lent. They are available as a kit and include all the Leader's Guide features described above in paper format. The kit also includes digital files in RTF format with text of services, plus a PDF file of the kit, and PowerPoint documents for use on screens. Kit Code **GMWU**

### **Ash Wednesday**

Mercy in Ashes • Joel 2:13

As we are marked with ashes on this day, a reminder to us of our sins, we are reminded, too, of the mercy of our God who lifts us from our ashes to new life in Christ.

### **Week 1**

Mercy in Temptation • 1 Corinthians 10:13

In the midst of temptation, our merciful God provides us with a way out through his Son, who was tempted just as we are, yet without sin.

### **Week 2**

Mercy in Suffering • 1 Peter 2:23

No life is without suffering, but our sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory to be revealed to us in Jesus by God's great mercy.

### **Week 3**

Mercy in Betrayal • 1 Peter 3:11

Though we may turn away from our God again and again, our Lord continues to call us back into his merciful arms for Jesus' sake.

### **Week 4**

Mercy in Relationships • Ephesians 4:32

Within the communities God has placed us, we are given the grace to treat one another as Christ has cared for us in his love and mercy.

### **Week 5**

Mercy in Service • Hebrews 6:10

In response to God's kindness to us in Jesus, we serve in mercy the needs of those around us by Christ's example.

### **Bulletins for the Lent Series:**

Code **GMW2** • Lent Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 11"

Code **GMWR** • Lent Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 14"

**You can also order the Ash Wednesday service alone:**

**Ash Wednesday**

Code **GMW3** • Kit

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COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP

LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

[shutterstock.com/image-photo/holy-communion-lords-supper-symbols-jesus-1448556806](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/holy-communion-lords-supper-symbols-jesus-1448556806)

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

*1 Corinthians 11:26*

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

**P** Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.

**C** **Come to the feast of the Lord.**

**P** He who has no money, come, buy and eat without price.

**C** **Come to the feast of the Lord.**

**P** Listen diligently to me, says the Lord; eat what is good and delight yourselves in rich food.

**C** **Come to the feast of the Lord.**

**P** Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.

**C** **Come to the feast of the Lord.**

**P** I will make with you an everlasting covenant.

**C** **Come to the feast of the Lord.**

**P** This is my body which is for you. ... This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

**C** **Come to the feast of the Lord.**

**P** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C** **Amen.**

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Herr Jesu Christ, Dich Zu Uns Wend LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray that we may feast on you today;  
Beneath these forms of bread and wine enrich us with your grace divine.

Give us, who share this wondrous food, your body broken and your blood,  
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n, the certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

By faith your Word has made us bold to seize the gift of love retold;  
All that you are we here receive, and all we are to you we give.

One bread, one cup, one body, we, rejoicing in our unity,  
Proclaim your love until you come to bring your scattered loved ones home.

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray: O keep us steadfast till that day  
When each will be your welcomed guest in heaven's high and holy feast.

- The **Confession and Forgiveness** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** On the night in which he was betrayed Jesus took bread and wine and gave it to his disciples as the meal of the New Covenant. Tonight as we prepare to receive the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper, we confess that we have betrayed our Lord by our sinful thoughts, words and deeds. We repent of that sin, and we seek God's mercy to forgive our iniquity.

**C** **Most merciful God, we are not worthy to receive you. We are sinful and unclean. We have disobeyed your Word and disregarded your will for us. We ask you not to remember our evil but instead to forgive our transgression. For the sake of Jesus Christ, who sacrificed his body and blood for our salvation, pardon us and restore us in righteousness. Renew us so that we walk in obedience to your Word, to the glory of your holy name.**

**P** We cry to you for mercy!

**C** **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

*(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)*

**P** Hear the good news! God's Word declares: "the blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sins and gives you his righteousness, making you holy in his sight. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

**C** **Amen.**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** Gracious Lord, in the Upper Room you left us a memorial of your passion in a wonderful meal of forgiveness and life. Grant that we may share in this sacred supper of your body and blood so that your redeeming work may continue to abide in us. In view of your mercy, form us by your Spirit to remember him who comes to us in the bread and wine. We pray these things in the holy name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



- The **Children’s Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader, including the singing of “Jesus Loves Me” to the tune Jesus Loves Me 77 77 and refrain:

Ⓟ Oftentimes on special occasions we have special food. On a holiday or a birthday you will gather with family members or friends for a special meal. We eat these meals with people whom we love and who love us. For example, on Thanksgiving Day we share a special meal in which we eat turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Yum! On your birthday your parents will make your favorite food and offer you birthday cake and ice cream. In just a few days we will celebrate Easter and people will gather around the table to eat ham and eggs. And, of course, on Easter we also eat candy! What kind of candy do you look forward to eating on Easter? (*Receive answers from children.*) The important thing is that we eat these special foods with people who love us. They are meals that celebrate love.

One night Jesus gathered with his friends, the people that he loved, for a special holiday meal. They were observing a holiday called Passover, and there were certain foods that were chosen for that special day. They ate unleavened bread and roasted lamb and drank wine. It was a tradition that each year they would celebrate this special meal with people they loved. It reminded them of how God had loved them and shown mercy to their people by rescuing them from being slaves. They remembered God’s merciful deeds and rejoiced in God’s continued love for them.

But Jesus turned that Passover meal into something even more wonderful. He took the bread and the wine and promised that he would be with them whenever they would eat and drink it. He promised that he would forgive their sins when they ate this special meal. This is a meal that we call the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion. It is such a wonderful meal because in the food Jesus gives us his love and assures Christians that he is with them. It is a special meal of the love of God.

One day you will be able to eat this meal with your parents. This will happen after you have been taught important truths about God and especially about the Lord’s Supper. That will be wonderful for you to eat the bread and wine and to know that Jesus loves and forgives you through them.

But you can know even now that Jesus loves and forgives you. We know that because the Bible tells us so. So let us tonight celebrate the love that Jesus gives to us. If you know the words, join me in singing the song, “Jesus Loves Me”:

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
 Little ones to him belong; they are weak by he is strong.  
 Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
 Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Tune..... Old 124th, abbr. 10 10 10 10

Measures 1-5 of the piece. The music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Measure 1 is marked with a '1' above the treble staff. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a series of chords. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Measures 6-10 of the piece. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. Measure 6 is marked with a '6' above the treble staff. The treble staff features a sequence of chords and a melodic line. The bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment of chords and notes.

Measures 11-15 of the piece. The third system concludes the piece. Measure 11 is marked with an '11' above the treble staff. The melody in the treble staff reaches its final notes, and the bass staff provides a concluding accompaniment.

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Old 124th, abbr. 10 10 10 10, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Draw near and take the body of the Lord, and drink the holy blood for you outpoured;  
Offered was he for greatest and for least, himself the victim and himself the priest.

He who his saints in this world rules and shields, to all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav'nly bread he makes the hungry whole, gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere, and take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow as in this feast of love you bless us now.