

Maundy Thursday Communion  
(Unworthy)

Invitation:

One: You may feel unworthy, but Jesus bids you come.  
You may feel embarrassed, but Jesus invites you to this table.  
You may be a person of unclean lips from a people of unclean lips,  
yet Christ has made a place for you as a most honored guest.  
Please come and share in this the goodness of God.

Confession:

**All: In our pride we choose not to stoop down to serve, so You do.  
In our greed we choose not to share with the undeserving, so You do.  
Our hatred keeps us from forgiving our enemies  
and those who seek our harm, so You do.  
We have sinned and fall so short of Your expectations.  
Forgive us, humble us, that we might be Your disciple and live as You do. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

One: It is Christ who washes you clean with the waters of life. In the name of Jesus Christ  
your sins are forgiven.

**All: It is Christ who washes you clean with the waters of life. In the name of Jesus  
Christ your sins are forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.**

Thanksgiving:

One: Christ has chosen you.

**All: and you have also been chosen.**

One: I have done nothing to deserve it,

**All: neither have we.**

One: I am so thankful that God stooped down to make me clean

**All: We are refreshed, welcomed, and filled with joy.**

One: You are the essence of compassion and mercy.  
You prize humility as the essence of Your divine glory.  
You embrace service not as a mark of shame but one of the greatest honor.  
You must laugh at us, as we scramble after the illusion of power and prestige.  
Our anger must seem silly to You and our quest for vengeance our greatest folly.  
You have shown us Your way.  
You who are first have placed yourself last for our sake,  
and challenge us to try it for ourselves.  
We get angry when life does not go our way, and we quit and slink away,  
Yet You never leave.  
You never forsake us.  
You never give up on us.  
You always stay.  
So as we come to our senses, we fall on our knees and turn back to You

and find You smiling and Your arms are held wide open to us.  
You wipe the tears from our eyes, and wash the dust from our feet.  
We love you! With our voices we praise You.  
With our compassion and forgiveness we worship You.  
With our generosity and humility we proclaim Your glory,  
joining with all who place their crowns at Your feet, proclaiming:

**All: You're always worthy  
Receiving glory, honor  
For Your matchless power.**

**You created all.  
By Your will we now exist  
And were created.** (Revelation 4:11)

One: You are worthy and so is Jesus through whom You created all things.  
Jesus was patient and kind.  
Jesus lived a life of humility.  
Jesus did not insist on his own way,  
but always ready to wipe the dust off his feet and move on.  
Jesus did not keep a record of wrongs,  
but instead turned the other cheek  
and forgave those who did not realize what they were doing.  
Jesus fulfilled all righteousness.

Even though his disciples were unworthy,  
Jesus extended them hospitality anyway,  
leaving the seat of honor,  
taking a place among the servants,  
to wash the feet of all.  
All Christ asks is that we love others as he has loved us.

Even though his disciples were unworthy,  
Jesus included them anyway.  
With ancient words of thanksgiving,  
Jesus blessed and broke the bread of Passover.  
Bread set aside to remember those still facing oppression.  
Sharing with everyone, Jesus said:  
"Take, eat, this is my body broken and given for you."  
All Christ asks is that we love others as he has loved us.

Even though his disciples were unworthy,  
Jesus included them anyway.  
With ancient words of thanksgiving,  
Jesus blessed and lifted the cup of Passover wine.  
Wine set aside to remember the painful reality of sin.

Sharing with everyone, Jesus said:

“Drink all of you, for this is the cup of my blood,  
poured out as a thank offering in gratitude for God’s eternal covenant of grace  
granting forgiveness not just for your sins, but for the sins of the entire world.”  
All Christ asks is that we love others as he has loved us.

We do want to love as Christ loved.  
We want to live humbly, generously,  
full of mercy and compassion.  
It is this Christ we declare with this  
profound mystery of our faith:

**All: Christ lived with humility.  
Christ dies with forgiveness.  
Christ comes again in compassion.**

One: Reparative Justice, Expansive Mercy  
drench these gifts of bread and wine,  
allowing them to become for us  
the body and blood of Christ.

Reparative Justice, Expansive Mercy  
drench the gift of our lives:  
our humility, our generosity, our compassion  
allowing them to become for the world  
Your church, the living body and faithful bride of Christ.

Reparative Justice, Expansive Mercy  
be with us, Your unworthy people gathered here this holy night.  
Humble our hearts so we might serve you.  
Strengthen our wills so we might perceive faithfully.  
Enlighten our minds that we might feel the thrill of questions.  
We ask for the sake of ourselves and others whom Christ loves,  
whom the Holy Spirit woos,  
whom the Creator is working tirelessly for the salvation of all.  
Accept our worship and our praise for Your glory. Amen.

Now I invite you to pray with me according to the pattern Jesus taught us:

**All: Most Humble and most Meek, all Gracious and all Merciful,  
the Salvation of the unworthy on earth and in heaven.  
Your name is worthy of praise.  
Give to us all that we need, and the compassion to share.  
Teach us to live with humility, gratitude, and with a servant’s heart,  
delivering us from our pride, our greed, and our desire to rule.  
For Your ways are peaceful, gracious, and full of mercy, always. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

We are filled with gratitude for this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ. In this sacrament You have transformed our lives. You have given us hope. You have surprised us with joy. Now send us out in Your name that You may use us to bring hope and joy to others, that they may come to know that they are not so unworthy that You would not love them. But that You choose to bless them richly with Your love now and always. Amen.