

GLOUCESTER  
CATHEDRAL

## **The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday and Watch**

Thursday, 2 April 2026  
7.30 p.m.  
The Nave

# Safeguarding

Gloucester Cathedral is committed to being a **safe** and **welcoming** place for **all**. The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in the life of the Cathedral is everyone's responsibility.

**If someone is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999.**

If you have safeguarding concern as a member of the Cathedral Congregation please contact our Congregation Safeguarding Officer, Gill Brook, [safeguarding@gloucestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@gloucestercathedral.org.uk) or a member of the clergy, [clergy@gloucestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:clergy@gloucestercathedral.org.uk)



Please turn off any mobile devices.



For safeguarding, photography and videography are not permitted during services.



An induction loop is available for those using hearing aids. Please turn your hearing aid to the 'T' position.



Large print booklets are available on request. Please ask a steward.

# Welcome

Welcome to Gloucester Cathedral. There has been a place of worship on this site for over 1,300 years. Today, we join with the generations of people who have gone before us and with the whole company of heaven in the worship of God.

The Eucharist, which means ‘thanksgiving’, is perhaps the most important act of worship for Christians because it recalls the death and resurrection of Jesus, fulfilling his command at the Last Supper to remember him. Outwardly, the Eucharist takes the form of sharing bread and wine; inwardly, Christ is made present to us in a special way, and we are given a taste of the heavenly banquet, which God has prepared for those who love him.

The word ‘Maundy’ comes from the Latin ‘mandatum’ which means ‘mandate.’ On this night, we recall Christ’s double mandate to remember his sacrifice in the breaking of bread and sharing of wine, and to love one another, even as we have been loved. At the end of the service, the altar will be stripped of all its ornaments, symbolising the stripping of Jesus before his crucifixion, and the desertion by the disciples. We then move to the Lady Chapel for the ‘Watch’, recalling Jesus’ agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, as he contemplated his impending sacrifice.



*The service is sung by The Trinity Singers*

*The musical setting of the Eucharist is*  
PLAINSONG, TONE V

*The president is the Dean*  
*The Very Reverend Andrew Zihni*

*The preacher is The Venerable Dr Rachel Mann*

# ¶ *The Gathering*

*At 7.30 p.m., the congregation stands to sing*



**This is the night, dear friends, the night for weeping,  
when powers of darkness overcome the day,  
the night the faithful mourn the weight of evil  
whereby our sins the Son of Man betray.**

**This night the traitor, wolf within the sheepfold,  
betrays himself into his victim's will;  
the Lamb of God for sacrifice preparing,  
sin brings about the cure for sin's own will.**

**This night Christ institutes his holy supper,  
blest food and drink for heart and soul and mind;  
this night injustice joins its hand to treason's,  
and buys the ransom-price of humankind.**

**This night the Lord by slaves shall be arrested,  
he who destroys our slavery to sin;  
accused of crime, to criminals be given,  
that judgement on the righteous Judge begin.**

**O make us sharers, Saviour, of your Passion,  
that we may share your glory that shall be;  
let us pass through these three dark nights of sorrow  
to Easter's laughter and its liberty.**

*Words, Peter Abelard 1079-1142  
tr., Richard Sturch 1936-  
Tune, HIGHWOOD; R. R. Terry 1865-1938*

## The Greeting

*The president greets the people*

+ In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

*The president gives a welcome and introduces the service.*

## Prayers of Penitence

*The deacon says*

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

‘If you love me, keep my commandments.’

‘Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.’

Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love,  
and ask him to cleanse us.

*Silence is kept.*

Have mercy on us, O God, in your great goodness;  
according to the abundance of your compassion  
blot out our offences.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Against you only have we sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Purge us from our sin and we shall be clean;  
wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The president gives the absolution*

✠ May the Father forgive you  
by the death of his Son  
and strengthen you  
to live in the power of the Spirit  
all your days.

*All* **Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*The choir sings*

Gloria in excelsis Deo  
et in terra pax  
hominibus bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,  
adoramus te, glorificamus te,  
gratias agimus tibi propter  
magnam gloriam tuam.

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite,  
Jesu Christe.  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,  
Filius Patris,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram,  
qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus,  
tu solus Dominus,  
tu solus altissimus,  
Jesu Christe,  
cum Sancto Spiritu  
in gloria Dei Patris.  
Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and in earth peace,  
goodwill to all people.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we worship you, we glorify you,  
we give thanks to you  
for your great glory.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
Son of the Father,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer,  
who sits at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.*

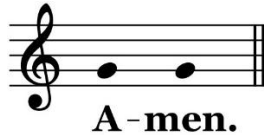
## The Collect

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer, singing*

Let us pray that we may love one another as Christ has loved us.

*Silence is kept.*

God our Father,  
you have invited us to share in the supper  
which your Son gave to his Church  
to proclaim his death until he comes:  
may he nourish us by his presence,  
and unite us in his love;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.



*The congregation sits.*

## ¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

### Old Testament Reading

A reading from the Book of the 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 neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of 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 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.

12.1-4; 11-14

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation stands to sing*



**An upper room did our Lord prepare  
for those he loved until the end:  
and his disciples still gather there,  
to celebrate their risen friend.**

**A lasting gift Jesus gave his own,  
to share his bread, his loving cup.  
Whatever burdens may bow us down,  
he by his Cross shall lift us up.**

**And after Supper he washed their feet,  
for service, too, is sacrament.  
In him our joy shall be made complete  
sent out to serve, as he was sent.**

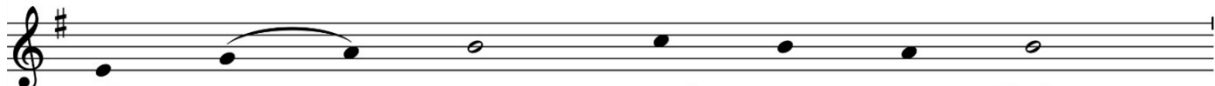
**No end there is! We depart in peace.  
He loves beyond our uttermost:  
in every room in our Father's house  
he will be there, as Lord and host.**

*Words, F. Pratt Green 1903-2000*


*Tune, O WALY WALY; English traditional melody*

# Gospel Reading

*The choir sings the acclamation and all repeat*




Praise to \_\_\_\_\_ you, Lord Je - sus Christ,




King of end - less glo - ry.

*Choir*

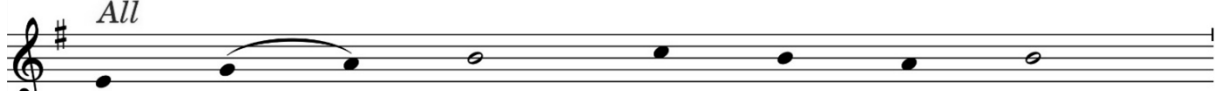


I give you a new com - mand - ment says the Lord:




Love one a - no - ther as I have loved \_\_\_\_\_ you.

*All*



Praise to \_\_\_\_\_ you, Lord Je - sus Christ,



King of end - less glo - ry.

*When the Gospel is announced the deacon says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

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.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘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.’

13.1-17; 31-35

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## Sermon

*The congregation sits.*

# Prayers of Intercession

*The president says*

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

*All* **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

*All* **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

*All* **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

*All* **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

*All* **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

*All* **and welcome all your children into paradise.**

# ¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

## **The Peace**

*The congregation stands.*

*The president introduces the Peace*

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*The deacon says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Preparation of the Table

*As the altar is prepared, the congregation remains standing to sing*



**And now, O Father, mindful of the love  
that bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,  
and having with us him that pleads above,  
we here present, we here spread forth to thee  
that only offering perfect in thine eyes,  
the one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.**

**Look, Father, look on his anointed face,  
and only look on us as found in him;  
look not on our misusings of thy grace,  
our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim:  
for lo, between our sins and their reward  
we set the Passion of thy Son our Lord.**

**And then for those, our dearest and our best,  
by this prevailing presence we appeal:  
O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast,  
O do thine utmost for their souls' true weal;  
from tainting mischief keep them white and clear,  
and crown thy gifts with strength to persevere.**

**And so we come: O draw us to thy feet,  
most patient Saviour, who canst love us still;  
and by this food, so awful and so sweet,  
deliver us from every touch of ill:  
in thine own service make us glad and free,  
and grant us never more to part with thee.**

*Words, William Bright 1824-1901  
Tune, SONG 1; Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625*

# Taking of the Bread and Wine

*When the altar is prepared, the president says*

At the eucharist we are with our crucified and risen Lord.

We know that it was not only our ancestors,  
but we who were redeemed  
and brought forth from bondage to freedom,  
from mourning to feasting.

We know that as he was with them in the upper room  
so our Lord is here with us now.

**All Until the kingdom of God comes  
let us celebrate this feast.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,  
you bring forth bread from the earth.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,  
you create the fruit of the vine.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**



Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit  
in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
that is, this very night,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU;  
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:

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.  
DO THIS, AS OFTEN AS YOU DRINK IT,  
IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
We pro - claim your death, Lord Je - sus,  
un - til you come in glo - ry.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
St Joseph her spouse, St Peter, St Benedict, St Kyneburga,  
and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.



## The Lord's Prayer

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom  
and teach us to pray

<i>All</i> <b>Our Father,</b>	Notre Père...
<b>who art in heaven,</b>	
<b>hallowed be thy name;</b>	Vater Unser...
<b>thy kingdom come;</b>	
<b>thy will be done;</b>	Onze Vader...
<b>on earth as it is in heaven.</b>	
<b>Give us this day our daily bread.</b>	Padre Nuestro...
<b>And forgive us our trespasses,</b>	
<b>as we forgive those who trespass against us.</b>	Ojcie Nasz...
<b>And lead us not into temptation;</b>	
<b>but deliver us from evil.</b>	Baba Yetu...
<b>For thine is the kingdom,</b>	
<b>the power and the glory,</b>	E to matou Matua...
<b>for ever and ever.</b>	
<b>Amen.</b>	Ein Tad...

## Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,**  
**because we all share in one bread.**

## Giving of Communion

*The president says the invitation to communion*

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,**  
**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The president and people receive Communion.*

*If it is your custom to receive Communion in your own church, you are welcome to do so today. If you would rather receive a blessing, please bring this order of service with you so that we may know how to minister to you.*

*Communion is offered in both bread and wine, though you may wish to receive the bread only. For hygiene reasons, intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is prohibited.*

*If you require a gluten-free wafer, please tell the ministers.*

*The choir sings the Agnus Dei*

*Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.*

*O Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

*Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.*

*O Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

*Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona nobis pacem.*

*O Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.*

*The Choir sings the Communion motet*

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.*

*Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased in him.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other  
with a sincere heart. Amen.*

*Words, antiphon for the Liturgy of Maundy Thursday  
Music, plainsong  
Arranged, Alan Bullard 1947-*

## Prayer after Communion

*The president says*

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament  
you have given us the memorial of your passion:  
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries  
of your body and blood  
that we may know within ourselves  
and show forth in our lives  
the fruit of your redemption,  
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## ¶ *The Conclusion*

### **The Stripping of the Sanctuary**

*The altar is stripped, during which the choir sings psalm 88*

O Lord, God of my salvation,  
I have cried day and night before you.

Let my prayer come into your presence;  
incline your ear to my cry.

For my soul is full of troubles;  
my life draws near to the land of death.

I am counted as one gone down to the Pit;  
I am like one that has no strength,

Lost among the dead,  
like the slain who lie in the grave,

Whom you remember no more,  
for they are cut off from your hand.

You have laid me in the lowest pit,  
in a place of darkness in the abyss.

Your anger lies heavy upon me,  
and you have afflicted me with all your waves.

You have put my friends far from me  
and made me to be abhorred by them.

I am so fast in prison that I cannot get free;  
my eyes fail from all my trouble.

Lord, I have called daily upon you;  
I have stretched out my hands to you.

Do you work wonders for the dead?  
Will the shades stand up and praise you?

Shall your loving-kindness be declared in the grave,  
your faithfulness in the land of destruction?

Shall your wonders be known in the dark  
or your righteous deeds in the land where all is forgotten?

But as for me, O Lord, I will cry to you;  
early in the morning my prayer shall come before you.

Lord, why have you rejected my soul?  
Why have you hidden your face from me?

I have been wretched and at the point of death from my youth;  
I suffer your terrors and am no more seen.

Your wrath sweeps over me;  
your horrors are come to destroy me;

All day long they come about me like water;  
they close me in on every side.

Lover and friend have you put far from me  
and hid my companions out of my sight.

*The choir, ministers and congregation process to the Lady Chapel, during which is sung*



**Go to dark Gethsemane,  
ye who feel the tempter's power;  
your Redeemer's conflict see,  
watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his griefs away;  
learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment-hall;  
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;  
O the wormwood and the gall!  
O the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss:  
Learn of Christ to bear the cross.**

**Calvary's mournful mountain climb;  
there, adoring at his feet,  
mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
'It is finished!' hear the cry;  
learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

*Words, James Montgomery 1771-1854*

*Tune, NICHT SO TRAUIG (PRESSBURG)*

*in J. A. Freylinghausen's *Neus Geistreiches Gesangbuch* 1714*

## ¶ *The Watch*

*When all are gathered in the Lady Chapel, the choir sings psalm 54*

1. Save me, O God, for thy Name's sake : and avenge me in thy strength.
2. Hear my prayer, O God : and hearken unto the words of my mouth.
3. For strangers are risen up against me :  
and tyrants, which have not God before their eyes, seek after my soul.
4. Behold, God is my helper : the Lord is with them that uphold my soul.
5. He shall reward evil unto mine enemies :  
destroy thou them in thy truth.
6. An offering of a free heart will I give thee,  
and praise thy Name, O Lord :  
because it is so comfortable.
7. For he hath delivered me out of all my trouble :  
and mine eye hath seen his desire upon mine enemies.

¶ *The congregation sits.*

## **The Gospel of the Watch**

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

"I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.' Peter said to him, 'Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.' Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' Peter said to him, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And so said all the disciples.

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.'

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.' At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?' At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, 'This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days."' The high priest stood up and said, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But Jesus was silent.

Then the high priest said to him, 'I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.' Jesus said to him, 'You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.'

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?' They answered, 'He deserves death.' Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, 'Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?'

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, 'You also were with Jesus the Galilean.' But he denied it before all of them, saying, 'I do not know what you are talking about.' When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.' Again he denied it with an oath, 'I do not know the man.' After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.' Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know the man!' At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

*Silence is kept.*

*Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament will be kept in the Lady Chapel until 10.00 p.m. All are welcome to stay for as long as is helpful.*

*Those departing at any point are asked to do so in silence.*

## **The Conclusion**

*At 10.00 p.m. a minister says*

Jesus looked up to heaven and said: 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you.'

Christ was obedient unto death. Go now in his peace.

*All depart in silence.*

# Holy Week and Easter 2026

## **Preaching of the Cross**

*Good Friday 3 April, 12.00 noon*

Join us for this solemn service on Good Friday, when we remember the Crucifixion. Our guest preacher, The Venerable Dr Rachel Mann, will lead us in a series of meditations on the theme *In the Midst of Love: With Jesus Through Holy Week*.

---

## **The Liturgy of Good Friday**

*Good Friday 3 April, 1.30 p.m.*

During this liturgy, we recall Jesus' last hour on the cross, through readings, music and silence. We stand at the foot of the cross and contemplate the true depth of God's love for us in the crucifixion of Jesus.

---

## **Bach's St John Passion**

*Good Friday 3 April, 7.00pm*

Bach's St John Passion is one of the most famous and dramatic choral pieces ever written, concentrating the mind on the realities of the Passion story. Sung by the Cathedral Choir and accompanied by *La Serenissima*. Tickets can be purchased on the website.

## **The Liturgy of Easter Eve**

*Saturday 4 April, 8.00pm*

Join us for this dramatic, candlelit service on Holy Saturday, when we tell the story of God's salvation and begin our celebration of the resurrection. The president will be the Bishop of Gloucester.

---

## **The Liturgy of Easter Day**

*Easter Sunday 5 April, 10.15am*

"Alleluia! Christ is risen!" All are welcome at this joyful Eucharist on Easter Sunday, as we come together to celebrate the Resurrection. The president and preacher will be the Bishop of Gloucester.

---

## **Solemn Evensong on Easter Day**

*Easter Sunday 20 April, 3.00pm*

Join us for a festival of music as we continue to celebrate the resurrection.

