



Taste and See
That the Lord is Good
Maundy Thursday
Table Liturgy, 2024

Note to Leader:

Consider reading the following out loud to your group before you lead the liturgy.

"Maundy" comes from the Latin for "command." It refers to the command given by Jesus at the Last Supper: "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 13.31-35

Maundy Thursday is the celebration of the Last Supper of Christ with his disciples. Three major events make up this evening: he washed the disciple's feet, he instituted the Lord's Supper, and he gave them the "new" commandment to love one another.

One of the ways that we can "love one another as Christ has loved us" is by eating together. A meal eaten together is a great expression of love. It is no wonder that Christ shared a meal on the last night he was with his disciples. His love was deep for his disciples and he wanted to share a meal to show his love. He used that same meal to institute the sacrament of communion that we take part in as a church all over the world.

As we sit and eat together this evening let us be reminded in our own meal of his body broken and his blood shed for our salvation. And let us remember that on that night he commanded us to love one another. In fact, he reminded his disciples and reminds us that the world will know that we are followers of Christ by the way we extravagantly love each other. Let us eat together in joy.

Note to Leader:

The following is a simple liturgy you can use before your meal. Instruct everyone that you will be reading the liturgy and they can respond with "taste and see that the Lord is good."

Isaiah 24:23, 25:6-8, Psalm 34:8

Leader: The LORD of hosts reigns
on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem,
and his glory will be before all people.

All: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Leader: On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

All: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Leader: And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.
He will swallow up death forever;

All: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Leader: And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

All: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Leader: This is the day that Christ, the Lamb of God, gave himself into the hands of those who would kill him.

All: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Leader: This is the day that Christ gathered with his disciples in the Upper Room.

All: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Leader: This is the day that Christ took a towel and washed his disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us.

All: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Leader: This is the day that Christ our God gave us the holy feast, and we eat and drink tonight to remember his holy sacrifice, his resurrection and that on the last day we will reign and feast with him in the new heavens and the new earth.

All: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Leader: Happy are all who take refuge in him.

All: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Note to Leader:

Now read the following text and then invite everyone to sing the doxology. It is on the following page for your reference.

John 13:1, Luke 22:14–23, John 13:31–35, John 14:18–21

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

Doxology

G D Bm Em D G Em C G D

Praise God, from whom all bles-sings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low;

Em D G C D G Em Am C G/B D7 G C G

Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, Music, German Psalter, 1561