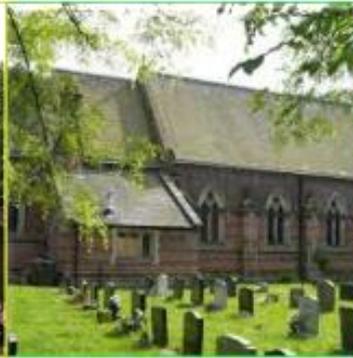




Christ
Church
Wheelock



St
Michaels
Crewe
Green



St
Matthews
Haslington

UNITED BENEFICE

STRIPPING THE ALTAR

ON MAUNDY THURSDAY

The Gathering

At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung.

The Greeting

The president greets the people

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you

All and also with you.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Prayers of Penitence

A minister uses this Invitation to Confession or other suitable words

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.

Or another authorized form of confession may be used.

The president uses this or another authorized absolution

May the Father forgive us
by the death of his Son
and strengthen us

to live in the power of the Spirit
all *our* days.

All Amen.

If a Kyrie Confession has not been said, the following may be used

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

(or)

**All Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
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 with the words
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.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The psalm or canticle follows the first reading; other hymns and songs may be used between the readings.

Gospel Reading

This acclamation may herald the Gospel reading

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:

Love one another as I have loved you.

All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

John 13.1-17, 31b-35

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

This form or other suitable words may be used.

Silence may be kept before each versicle and response.

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 Conclusion

The Stripping of the Sanctuary

The holy table and the sanctuary may be stripped bare. During the stripping, Psalm 88 may be used, or another psalm such as Psalm 22, or these or other verses from Lamentations may be used.

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people!
How like a widow she has become,
she that was great among the nations!
She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her.

All Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals;
all her gates are desolate, her priests groan;
her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter.
Her children have gone away, captives before the foe.
Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.

All Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

From on high he sent fire; it went deep into my bones;
he spread a net for my feet; he turned me back;
he has left me stunned, faint all day long.
For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears;
for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage;
my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed.

All Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

All who pass along the way clap their hands at you;
they hiss and wag their heads at daughter Jerusalem;
'Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty,
the joy of all the earth?'
The thought of my affliction and homelessness is wormwood and
gall.

All Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

All Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.
It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth,
to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it,
to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope),
to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.
For the Lord will not reject for ever.

All Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.

The Dismissal

If the Watch is not kept, the dismissal is said. This form may be used

When the disciples had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed to the Father, 'If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me.' He said to his disciples, 'How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinners.'
Christ was obedient unto death. Go in his peace.

The ministers and people depart quietly.

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