MAUNDY THURSDAY READINGS: THE HOLY EUCHARIST

A Reading from Exodus

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they shall take every man a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household; and if the household is too small for a lamb, then a man and his neighbor next to his house shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old; you shall take it from the sheep or from the goats; and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs in the evening. Then they shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread

and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled with water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning, anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. In this manner you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD."

Psalm 78:14-20, 23-25

- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, * and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness * and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, * and the waters gushed out like rivers.
- 17 But they went on sinning against him, * rebelling in the desert against the Most High.
- 18 They tested God in their hearts, * demanding food for their craving.
- 19 They railed against God and said, *
 "Can God set a table in the wilderness?
- True, he struck the rock, the waters gushed out, and the gullies overflowed; *
 but is he able to give bread
 or to provide meat for his people?"

- 23 So he commanded the clouds above * and opened the doors of heaven.
- 24 He rained down manna upon them to eat * and gave them grain from heaven.
- 25 So mortals ate the bread of angels; * he provided for them food enough.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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 during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded. He came to Simon Peter; and Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but he is clean all over; and you are clean, but not every

one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "You are not all clean." When he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

The Washing of the Altar and the Stripping of the Sanctuary

Antiphon

They divide my garments among them; * they cast lots for my clothing.

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? * and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?

- O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
 by night as well, but I find no rest.
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, * enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; * they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; * they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, * scorned by all and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; * they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- 8 "He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; * let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, * and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
- I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
 you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, * and there is none to help.
- 12 Many young bulls encircle me; * strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
- 13 They open wide their jaws at me, * like a ravening and a roaring lion.
- 14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; * my heart within my breast is melting wax.

- 15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; * and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
- 16 Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; * they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.
- 17 They stare and gloat over me; * they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.
- 18 Be not far away, O LORD; * you are my strength; hasten to help me.
- 19 Save me from the sword, * my life from the power of the dog.
- 20 Save me from the lion's mouth, * my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

- 21 I will declare your Name to my brethren; * in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- Praise the LORD, you that fear him; * stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; * but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
 I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
 "May your heart live for ever!"

- All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, * and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; * he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; * all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; * they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn * the saving deeds that he has done.

Antiphon

They divide my garments among them; * they cast lots for my clothing.