

## Maundy Thursday *Part 1 The Lord's Supper*

Let thy Blood in mercy poured, let thy gracious Body broken,  
be to me, O gracious Lord, of thy boundless love the token.  
Thou didst give thyself for me, now I give myself to thee.

-John Brownlie 1859-1925

**Reading from the Gospel** Luke 22:14-30

### **Meditation**

*As the body desires food and drink, just so closely does our individual life desire to be united with God. We hunger and thirst after God. It is not enough for us to know him and to love him. We would clasp him, draw him to ourselves, hold him fast, and, bold as it sounds, we would take him into ourselves as we do our necessary food and drink, and thereby still and satisfy our hunger to the full. ...*

*In deepest reverence, and yet without fear, let us acknowledge the longing which God himself has planted in us, and rejoice in this gift of his exceeding goodness. "My flesh," Christ says to us, "Is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed... He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood abideth in me and I in him ... As the Father hath given me to have life in myself, so he that eateth me, the same also shall live by me." To eat his flesh, to drink his blood, to eat him, to absorb into ourselves the living God – it is beyond any wish we might be capable of forming for ourselves, yet it satisfies to the full what we long for, - of necessity long for, - from the bottom of our souls.*

-Roman Guardini 1885-1968

### **Reflection question**

Our sharing bread and wine is both collective – something we do together, and intimate – something we take into our souls. I am moved by the intimacy evoked by this quote by Aelred of Rievaulx. *Who is that, I ask, who is reclining on his breast and bends back his head to lay it in his bosom? Happy is he, whoever he may be. O, I see: his name is John. O John, tell us what sweetness, what grace and tenderness, what light and devotion you are imbibing from that fountain. There indeed are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, the fountain of mercy, the abode of loving kindness, the honeycomb of eternal sweetness.* No doubt John's affection comforted Jesus, as much as Jesus comforted John. How might you comfort Jesus as John did?

And, even while we can't be together to share our communion this evening, how can you comfort the Christ in others at this time?

**Prayers** Petitions, Intercessions, Thanksgivings

**Closing** How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the LORD. -Psalm 116: 10-11



*Maundy Thursday Part 1 The Last Supper*  
*Gospel Reading*

And when the hour came, he sat 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 shall 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 shall 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 supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold the hand of him who betrays me is with me at 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 was that would do this.

A dispute also arose among them, which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves.

"You are those who have continued with me in my trials; and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

-Luke 22:14-30