



**St Clare's**  
Roman Catholic  
Church



# MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HOLY THURSDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020

For the Jewish people the day began and ended with sunset. It was just after sunset on this night, therefore, when Jesus entered the day of His death. He began this day by sharing His final meal with His disciples, but this was no ordinary gathering. At this meal the Lord gave us the gift of His Body and Blood, He instituted the priesthood and He gave us both an example of service and a new commandment: "Love one another, as I have loved you".

By offering us His Body and Blood, which are 'given for us', Jesus transforms His death into a life-giving event. While His execution would be a brutal act of violence and hatred, He transforms it so that it becomes an act of self-giving, of sacrifice, and hence ultimately an act of love.

At the end of Mass the Blessed Sacrament is taken to the Altar of Repose, where we recall how Jesus prayed and suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane. We remember that Jesus went out into the night, out to face His suffering and death; He willingly chose what awaited Him.

Tonight's celebration does not end this evening; in fact, it continues through tomorrow and until Saturday night, when we witness Jesus risen from the dead as we celebrate the Easter Vigil. As we gather this evening at the Lord's altar, we too resolve to endure life's suffering with our minds and hearts fixed on the resurrection, and the pledge of glory which Christ gives us through the Eucharist.

*When the bell rings, we sing:*

OPENING HYMN

Forth from on high the Father sends  
His Son, who yet stays by His side.  
The Word made flesh for us then spends  
His life till life's last eventide.

While Judas plans the traitor's sign,  
The mocking kiss that Love betrays,  
Jesus in form of bread and wine  
His loving sacrifice displays.

He gives Himself that faith may see  
The heavenly Food on which we feed,  
That flesh and blood in us may be  
Fed by His Flesh and Blood indeed.

By birth He makes Himself our kin;  
As Food before His guests He lies;  
To death He bears the cross of sin;  
In heaven He reigns as our best prize.

O Priest and Victim, Lord of life,  
Throw wide the gates of Paradise!  
We face our foes in mortal strife;  
You are our strength: O heed our cries.

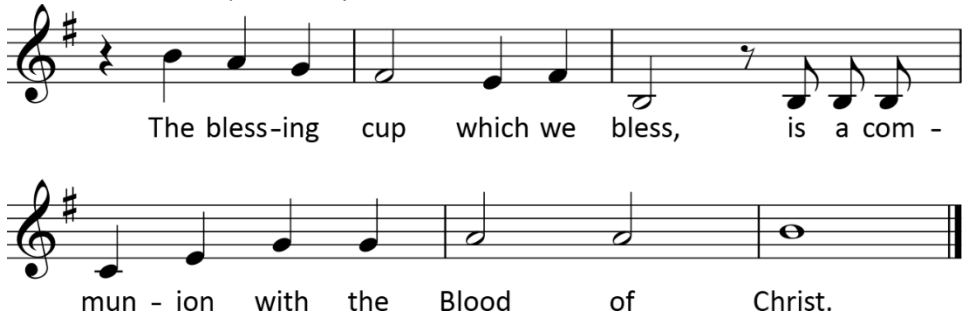
To Father, Son and Spirit blest,  
One only God, be ceaseless praise!  
May He in goodness grant us rest  
In heaven, our home for endless days.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

*Instructions concerning the Passover meal.*

PSALM: 115:12-13, 15-18 R/. cf. 1 Cor 10:16



SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

*Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the death of the Lord.*

ACCLAMATION

Praise to You, O Christ: King of Eternal Glory!

“I give you a new commandment:

Love one another just as I have loved you,” says the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ: King of Eternal Glory!

GOSPEL: John 13:1-15

*Now He showed how perfect His love was.*

HOMILY



## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Tonight we celebrate the gift the Lord Jesus gave us as an ongoing memorial of His presence and the representation of the sacrifice He made for us on the cross. It is by this gift, the Eucharist, that we are given strength to follow the Lord's example, to love and serve each other as members of His Body, the Church.*

## OFFERTORY

*The chant 'Ubi caritas' is sung:*

Where true charity is dwelling, God is present there.



## ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*As the congregation are unable to receive Holy Communion at this time, we are invited to pray a prayer of Spiritual Communion:*

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: 1 Corinthians 11:24-25

This is my Body, which is given up for you. This is the cup of the new covenant in my Blood, says the Lord. Each time you partake thereof, do it in memory of me.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*Before the Blessed Sacrament is transferred to the tabernacle in the side chapel, which will serve as the Altar of Repose, the ancient hymn 'Pangue Lingua' is sung:*

Sing, my tongue, the Saviour's glory,  
Of His flesh the myst'ry sing;  
Of the Blood, all price exceeding,  
Shed by our immortal King,  
Destined, for the world's redemption,  
From a noble womb to spring.

Of a pure and spotless virgin  
Born for us on earth below,  
He, as man, with us conversing,  
Stayed, the seeds of truth to sow;  
Then He closed in solemn order  
Wondrously His life of woe.

On the night of that last supper,  
Seated with His chosen band,  
He, the Paschal victim eating,  
First fulfills the Law's command;  
Then as food, to the disciples  
Gives Himself with His own hand.

Word made flesh, the bread of nature  
By His word to flesh He turns;  
Wine into His Blood He changes,  
What, though sense no change discerns?  
Only be the heart in earnest,  
Faith its lesson quickly learns.

Tantum ergo Sacramentum  
Veneremur cernui:  
Et antiquum documentum  
Novo cedat ritui:  
Praestet fides supplementum  
Sensuum defectui.

Genitori, Genitoque  
Laus et iubilatio,  
Salus, honor, virtus quoque  
Sit et benedictio:  
Procedenti ab utroque  
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.

*Down in adoration falling,  
Lo! the sacred Host we hail;  
Lo! o'er ancient forms departing,  
Newer rites of grace prevail;  
Faith for all defects supplying,  
Where the feeble senses fail.*

*To the everlasting Father,  
And the Son who reigns on high,  
With the Spirit now proceeding  
Forth from Each eternally,  
Be salvation, honour, blessing,  
Might and endless majesty. Amen.*

#### STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

*Immediately after the Mass is ended, the altar is stripped. Candles, cloths and other items are removed, leaving the sanctuary looking very stark. This is a preparation for the bleakness of Good Friday, the day of the Lord's death. It also reminds us of the Lord being stripped of His garments before He was crucified for our salvation.*

#### WATCHING BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*Live tonight, 9-10pm, we will stream quiet prayer before the tabernacle at the altar of repose. This is our opportunity to spend a little time with the Lord in the garden of Gethsemane, staying with Him in His agony. At 10pm we will end our watching with Compline (Night Prayer of the Church).*



## **Tonight (livestreamed):**

9-10pm: Private prayer in the Lord's presence  
at the Altar of Repose

10pm: Compline (Night Prayer)

## **Tomorrow: Good Friday (livestreamed):**

10am: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

### **3pm: The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion**

7pm: Quiet prayer around the Cross  
ending with Compline (night prayer)

## **Holy Saturday (livestreamed):**

10am: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

### **8:30pm: The Paschal Vigil and first Mass of Easter**



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