

MAUNDY THURSDAY VIGIL AT HOME

There is no one "right way" to keep vigil with the Lord Jesus on this night.

You may make a garden-like space indoors, or sit in your own garden.

Choose an hour to watch. Light a candle, if you wish.

Be still.

Jesus said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." *Matthew 26:38*

Some suggestions...

Begin with the Taize Community Choir hymn "Stay with me." Repeat five to seven times:

Stay with me.

Remain here with me.

Watch and pray.

Watch and pray.

Read one or more of the Passion stories from your Bible:

Matthew 26-27

Mark 14-15

Luke 22-23

John 18-19

Some possible meditations to read and silently "sit with":

Gethsemane

While thy best friends slept thou didst work their salvation.

Day in, day out, O Lord Christ, thou dost work ours, while we too sleep.

Thou, O Son of man, Son of God, in the Garden, at the Pillar, on the Cross

didst take away the sin of the world, and its darkness, and its death;

thyself bearing the cost in thine own body and mind and soul, all human, all divine.

Yet we sleep. Come, Lord, and wake us from the absorptions and the stupor of self-will.

Grant us to heed the tender warning, *Why sleep ye? Rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.*

And still thou speakest to each, *From all eternity I have loved thee; thee to all eternity will I love; canst thou not spare me one hour?*

Lead us forward to watch and pray with thee to do the will of the Father, to shew the courage of a son of God, to share by thy great grace O Lord,

that work of thine, that love, that suffering, that Holy Spirit which redeems.

Eric Milner-White in *My God, My Glory*

Foot Washing

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, as I have loved you".

THE BASIN AND THE TOWEL

In an upstairs room a parable is just about to come alive; and while they bicker about who's best with a painful glance he'll silently rise. Their Saviour-servant must show them how, through the will of the water and the tenderness of the towel.

And the call is to community, the impoverished power that sets the soul free in humility to take the vow that day after day we must take up the basin and the towel.

In any ordinary place, on any ordinary day, the parable can live again when one will kneel and one will yield. Our Saviour-servant must show us how, through the will of the water and the tenderness of the towel.

And the space between ourselves, sometimes, is more than the distance between the stars. By the fragile bridge of the servant's bow, we take up the basin and the towel.

And the call is to community, the impoverished power that sets the soul free in humility to take the vow that day after day we must take up the basin: and the call is to community; and day after day we must take up the basin and the towel.

Michael Card, in *Celtic Daily Prayer*

Jesus the Christ

He was baptized as man - but he remitted sins as God... He was tempted as man, but he conquered as God... He hungered - but he fed thousands... He was wearied, but he is with the rest of them that are weary and heavy-laden.

He was heavy with sleep, but he walked lightly over the sea... He pays tribute, but it is out of a fish; yea, he is the king of those who demand it... He prays, but he hears prayer.

He weeps, but he causes tears to cease.

He asks where Lazarus was laid, for he was man; but he raises Lazarus, for he was God.

He is sold, and very cheap, for it is only for thirty pieces of silver; but he redeems the world, and that at a great price, for the price was his blood.

As a sheep he is led to the slaughter, but he is the shepherd of Israel, and now of the whole world also... He is bruised and wounded, but he heals every disease and every infirmity.

He is lifted up and nailed to the tree, but by the tree of life he restores us.

He dies, but he gives life, and by his death he destroys death.

Gregory of Nazianzus (ca 329-390)

Concluding Prayer:

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and has suffered death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever

Amen.