

# MAUNDY THURSDAY



## THE PASSION IN THE GARDEN AND STRIPPING OF THE CHANCEL

### THE PASSOVER FEAST

#### INTRODUCTION

#### The Passion According to Matthew, Chapter 26

- Ⓛ Then one of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,
- Ⓞ **"What will you give me if I turn Jesus over to you?"**
- Ⓛ They paid him thirty pieces of silver. From that time on he was looking for an opportunity to turn him in. On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said,
- Ⓞ **"Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?"**
- Ⓜ "Go into the city, to a certain man, and say, 'The teacher says, My time is near. I'm going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'"
- Ⓛ The disciples did just as Jesus instructed them. They prepared the Passover. That evening he took his place at the table with the twelve disciples. As they were eating he said,
- Ⓜ "I assure you that one of you will betray me."
- Ⓛ Deeply saddened, each one said to him,
- Ⓞ **"I'm not the one, am I, Lord?"**
- Ⓜ "The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl. The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born."
- Ⓛ Now Judas, who would betray him, replied,
- Ⓞ **"It's not me, is it, Rabbi?"**
- Ⓜ "You said it."

- Ⓛ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said,
- Ⓜ “Take and eat. This is my body.”
- Ⓛ He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,
- Ⓜ “Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. I tell you, I won't drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father's kingdom.”
- Ⓛ Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

## THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

- Ⓛ Then Jesus said to his disciples,
- Ⓜ “Tonight you will all fall away because of me. This is because it is written, I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will go off in all directions. But after I'm raised up, I'll go before you to Galilee.”
- Ⓛ Peter replied,
- Ⓞ **“If everyone else stumbles because of you, I'll never stumble.”**
- Ⓜ “I assure you that, before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times.”
- Ⓛ Peter said,
- Ⓞ **“Even if I must die alongside you, I won't deny you.”**
- Ⓛ All the disciples said the same thing. Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to the disciples,
- Ⓜ “Stay here while I go and pray over there.”
- Ⓛ When he took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, he began to feel sad and anxious. Then he said to them,
- Ⓜ “I'm very sad. It's as if I'm dying. Stay here and keep alert with me.”
- Ⓛ Then he went a short distance farther and fell on his face and prayed,
- Ⓜ “My Father, if it's possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. However—not what I want but what you want.”
- Ⓛ He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter,
- Ⓜ “Couldn't you stay alert one hour with me? Stay alert and pray so that you won't give in to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.”
- Ⓛ A second time he went away and prayed,
- Ⓜ “My Father, if it's not possible that this cup be taken away unless I drink it, then let it be what you want.”
- Ⓛ Again he came and found them sleeping. Their eyes were heavy with sleep. But he left them and again went and prayed the same words for the third time. Then he came to his disciples and said to them,
- Ⓜ “Will you sleep and rest all night? Look, the time has come for the Human One to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up. Let's go. Look, here comes my betrayer.”

## STRIPPING OF THE CHANCEL

Ⓛ A reading from *Psalms* 69:

Save me, God, because the waters have reached my neck!

I have sunk into deep mud. My feet can't touch the bottom!

I have entered deep water; the flood has swept me up.

I am tired of crying. My throat is hoarse.

My eyes are exhausted with waiting for my God.

Ⓜ



Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray . . . Watch and pray.

Ⓛ More numerous than the hairs on my head  
are those who hate me for no reason.

My treacherous enemies, those who would destroy me, are countless.

Must I now give back what I didn't steal in the first place?

Ⓞ [Sung] ***Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray... Watch and pray.***

Ⓛ LORD God of heavenly forces!—

don't let those who hope in you be put to shame because of me.

God of Israel!— don't let those who seek you be disgraced because of me.

I am insulted because of you. Shame covers my face.

I have become a stranger to my own brothers,  
an immigrant to my mother's children.

Ⓞ [Sung] ***Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray... Watch and pray.***

Ⓛ Because passion for your house has consumed me,  
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me!

I wept while I fasted— even for that I was insulted.

When I wore funeral clothes, people made fun of me.

Those who sit at the city gate muttered things about me;  
drunkards made up rude songs.

Ⓞ [Sung] ***Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray... Watch and pray.***

Ⓛ But me? My prayer reaches you, LORD, at just the right time.

God, in your great and faithful love, answer me with your certain salvation!

Save me from the mud! Don't let me drown!

Let me be saved from those who hate me and from these watery depths!

Don't let me be swept away by the floodwaters!

Don't let the abyss swallow me up! Don't let the pit close its mouth over me!

- ☞ [Sung] ***Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray... Watch and pray.***
- ☞ Answer me, LORD, for your faithful love is good!  
 Turn to me in your great compassion!  
 Don't hide your face from me, your servant, because I'm in deep trouble.  
 Answer me quickly!  
 Come close to me! Redeem me! Save me because of my enemies!
- ☞ [Sung] ***Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray... Watch and pray.***
- ☞ You know full well the insults I've received;  
 you know my shame and my disgrace.  
 All my adversaries are right there in front of you.  
 Insults have broken my heart. I'm sick about it.  
 I hoped for sympathy, but there wasn't any;  
 I hoped for comforters, but couldn't find any.  
 They gave me poison for food.  
 To quench my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.
- ☞ [Sung] ***Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray... Watch and pray.***
- ☞ And me? I'm afflicted. I'm full of pain. Let your salvation keep me safe, God!  
 Let the afflicted see it and be glad!  
 You who seek God— let your hearts beat strong again  
 because the LORD listens to the needy and doesn't despise his captives.
- ☞ [Sung] ***Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray... Watch and pray.***

#### THE WATCH OF MAUNDY THURSDAY:

- ***Consider remaining in prayer for the next 10 minutes, and being in intentional silence until morning.***
- ***Plan to keep watch for an hour, or as long as you are able, during some part of this night, either at a certain time (perhaps setting an alarm), or arising at whatever time of the night you might happen to awaken.***
- ***During that hour, meditate on Jesus' prayer in the Garden and the reality that humanity in its sinfulness – a nature which we all share – deliberately chose to end the earthly life of the Son of God.***