

Church Together

A Night To Remember With Jesus

21st September 2025



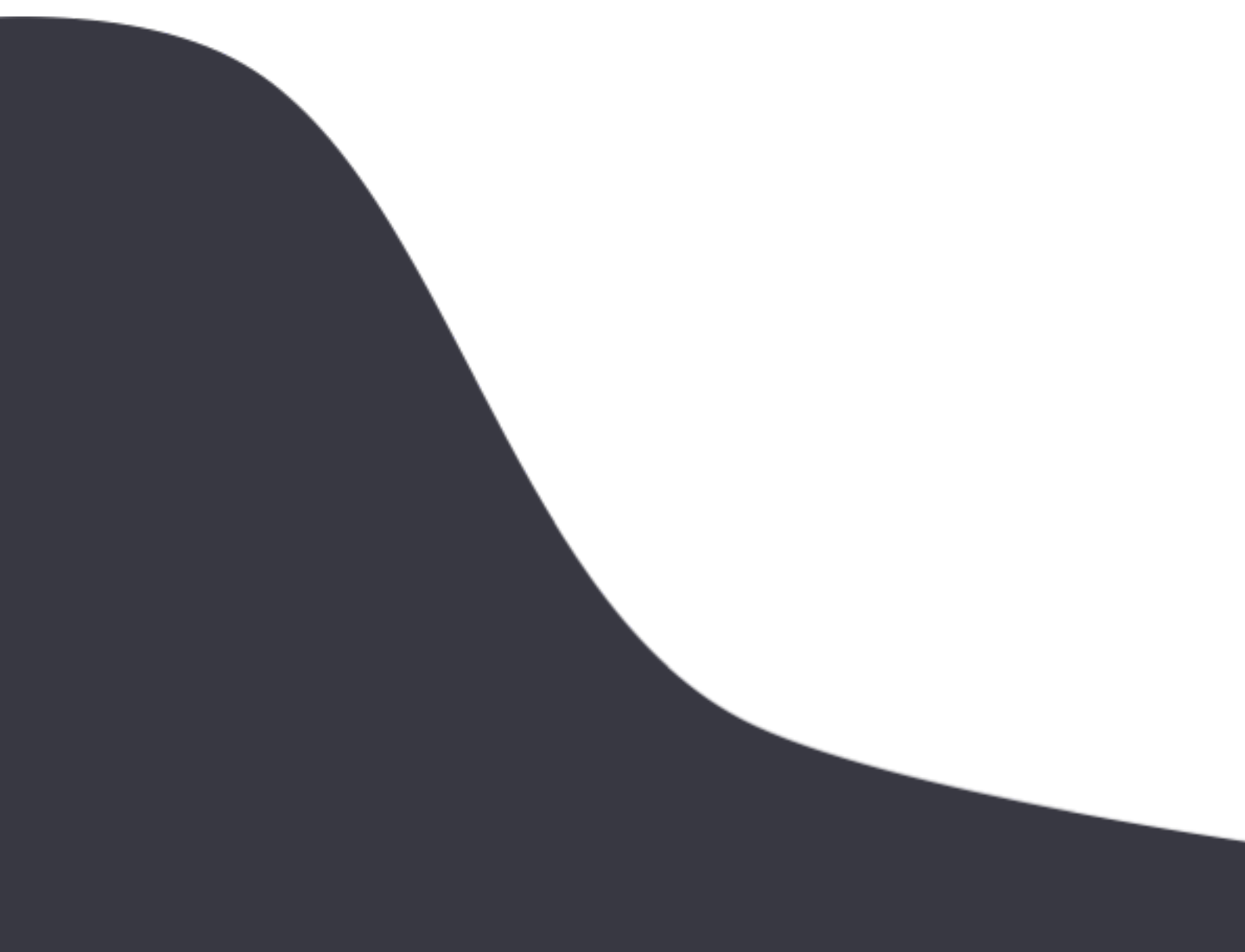
Welcome

In today's Service we will be looking at: **Matthew 26 v. 17 - 35**

The theme for our service today is: **A Night To Remember With Jesus**

Today our service also includes: **Communion**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **Take Seriously Your Walk And Relationship With Jesus**



Call To Worship

Lamentations 3 v. 22 – 26 NLT

The unfailing love of the Lord never ends!

By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction.

Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day.

I say to myself, 'The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!'

The Lord is wonderfully good to those who wait for him and seek him.

So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord.

Opening Prayer

Thank you for the freedom to be amongst your family here today as we meet together in the warmth of your presence. Loving God we thank you for the past week for all the conversations we have had and the tasks that we have carried out in your name.

We thank you that we are able to come to you just as we are, weary, tired and looking for direction and that you accept us just as we are and you love us just the same.

We thank you that we are still able to come before you in the busyness of our day, to worship you, and to offer ourselves in service to you.

Loving Lord, today we are able to bring before you all the hurts and fears that trouble us, and leave them with you, knowing that your strength and assurance are all that we require. Help us to encourage each other Lord, and not to criticise but to build up and not to knock down, to develop and move forward on our journey of faith together.

Amen

Song Suggestion

King Of Kings, Majesty



THIS IS MY BLOOD
OF THE COVENANT,
WHICH IS POURED OUT
FOR MANY FOR THE
FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

MATTHEW 26:28



Bible Reading

Matthew 26 v. 17 – 35 NIV

Jesus Eats the Passover with His Disciples

17 On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" 18 He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.' " 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. 20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." 22 They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?" 23 Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." 25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "You have said so."

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it

new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Peter's Denial Foretold

30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

31 Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: " 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' 32 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

33 Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." 34 "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." 35 But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

Song Suggestion

All My Days, I Will Sing



Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

If you feel that you are able to, then please keep on giving to the work of the church here at Salendine Nook, with a generous and cheerful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



Church Together

Thought

I wonder how Jesus must have felt with the knowledge that His death was forth coming. Maybe He was full of dread? **John 13 v. 1** gives us the indication that Jesus knew he was about to die – perhaps that was why he organised the Passover meal on the day before the actual festival. He was aware that he wouldn't be around to celebrate on the proper day. He knew, too, that it was not just physical death that was imminent; he was about to carry the weight of the world's guilt and, for the first time in eternity, to be separated from his Father.

However, Jesus' mood was not one of despair or anxiety – he not only performed his expected religious duty in keeping the Passover but took the opportunity to set up a new memorial feast for his followers – to point them beyond the old covenant to the new.

It is interesting to note that Jesus seems to have introduced this memorial to his death in the presence of his betrayer. He showed, as we read in **John 13 v. 21** that he was aware of Judas' treacherous actions, but he didn't expose him to the rest of the group, nor did he reject him. Although he was saddened and hurt by what Judas was doing, Jesus was not vindictive, trying to hurt Judas in return. Perhaps his reason for raising the issue was to show Judas that God knows about things done in secret, and to give Judas one last chance to change his mind. This should in effect give us all great hope.

Although all of us have often fallen into sin and found ourselves we can be reassured that if Jesus was willing to show love and compassion even to Judas, then he will also show each of us that love and assurance as well.

Rather than repenting, Judas tried to bluff his way through the situation, as we read in **Matthew 26 v. 25**.

Was he unsure how much Jesus knew? Did he hope that no one would realise how involved he had been in bringing about Jesus' arrest? Was he trying to keep in with both sides?

Although we know that God knows everything, how often do we spend time and energy trying to hide things from him? Perhaps the truth is that we are trying to hide these things from ourselves, too, so that we do not need to admit that we continue to be sinners!

How refreshing it is to remind ourselves that God knows us completely, that he has dealt fully with everything that hinders our relationship with him, and that he is never going to give up on us – we can approach him in boldness, being honest about our failings, but also being confident of his forgiveness and acceptance.

Jesus approached the Last Supper with two contrasting emotions:

FIRSTLY, IT WAS A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION

We are told in **Matthew 26 v. 17 – 19** that it celebrated a past deliverance. In our understanding in the 21st Century we need to realise that the Last Supper is also the Jewish Passover celebration. That this event reminds Jews of God's salvation when the angel of death passed over Jewish homes in Egypt (see **Exodus 12**) and so enabled them to leave slavery in Egypt.

We are also reminded in **Matthew 26 v. 26 – 29** that it

celebrated a future kingdom. Not only does the cup/wine represent the animal blood sealing the old covenant with Israel, but it also denotes the new covenant sealed with Jesus' own blood and pointing to a future kingdom in which God will reign. This kingdom will not now be restricted to one nation, but be open to all those who believe in Jesus as we find in **Revelation 7 v. 9, 10** which says: 'After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb'.

SECONDLY, IT WAS A NIGHT OF REFLECTION

Jesus saw into the hearts of his closest followers. We need to remember however, that Judas planned his disloyalty; Peter's was a lapse. Jesus was able to save Peter, but not Judas! Wilful sin is always more spiritually dangerous than the thoughtless or pressured lapse, because it hardens us to God's love and grace. A lapse is still a sin, but it stems from human weakness which includes a flawed choice. And as God forgives us, so too should we forgive the lapses of others.

Matthew 26 v. 20 – 25 reveals to us that Jesus predicted the betrayal of Judas. The disciples could not believe one of their number could do such a thing (**v. 22**). Jesus' response to Judas, however, is unequivocal (**v. 25**). Even someone close to Jesus can commit terrible sin. He predicted the denial of Peter (**v. 31 – 35**). It is prophetic (**v. 31, 32**). Jesus was destined to be abandoned. It is detailed (**v. 34**). Peter would be particularly culpable. It is

repudiated (**v. 33, 35**). Peter cannot believe he has it in him to do such a thing. And that was his downfall – he thought he stood, but such a proud thought was his weak point. It can be our downfall too. Our trust is to be in God alone, not in our determination.

A feature of the Passover meal was its happy celebration. The Hebrews were set free in Egypt because the angel of death passed over them but felled the Egyptians. At this celebratory meal Jesus indicated that two of his closest followers would let him down badly – through betrayal and denial.

We too need to be aware of occasions when we will face pressure to let Jesus down: By keeping quiet when we ought to speak. For example, failing to share something of our faith when someone scorns religion or expresses their intrigue in something ‘spiritual’; or not speaking out for justice when someone is bullied or pushed aside at work for no reason.

By aligning ourselves with dishonest practices. We can fail to take a stand at work when corners are cut or lies are told, out of fear of losing our own jobs. By spending too much time in the wrong company. We need a balance between associating with unbelievers while also maintaining our Christian fellowship and consistency. Imperceptibly we can pick up wrong standards, spiritually unhealthy attitudes and a worldly lifestyle which draw us away from God.

There is hope, however, in the prayer of Jesus for his followers that we read in **John 17 v. 11, 12**, which says: ‘I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so

that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled’.

Just as God will protect us, so we too must play our part and abide in Christ as we see in **John 15 v. 5, 6**. When we do let Jesus down, he can forgive and restore us, which is what he did for Peter, when we read about it in **John 21 v. 15 – 19**.

Prayers Of Intercession

Loving God, we lift up to you in prayer this morning the communities in which we worship, and those lives that interweave with ours. We pray for the other local churches in the community that is around us. May they be used by you, guided by your Holy Spirit, and may they be filled with the joy of your risen Son. We remember in prayer those communities that use our premises throughout the week. We pray for Slimming World, Huddersfield Wind Band, The Art Group, Play Group and both Scouts and Girl Guiding. May we in some way be linked to each of these groups and help them to see the love of Jesus in their organisations.

We pray for the local schools and colleges in our community. We pray that they would be places where children and young people are valued for who they are, where education is sought after, and the best of our society's understanding is passed on to future generations.

We pray this morning for places of work within the community. We pray for those whose occupation is to serve within the community: for health workers, police, fire fighters, social workers and many others. May they, together with all who live here, help this community to be a place where need is met and hope is given.

We pray for our own town here in Huddersfield and for its own particular mix of races and ages, and for its unique

character and traditions. May this be a place of compassion, justice, and vision. May your will, Lord God, be done and your love be active, in our community and within us.

We think and pray for the homeless, the unemployed, the asylum seeker and those in greatest need in our community. Lord Jesus be with those who find themselves lost and alone in society. Support all those who work and volunteer to bring hope to these people.

We pray for our families and friends. Lord we all face the ups and downs of life in many different ways. We thank you that Jesus knows our every situation. Help us we pray to face the different situations we face with dignity and love.

We continue to pray for the sick, both at home and in hospital, or hospice. We think of the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes. So again, as we share a moment of silence together, we bring before you those known only to ourselves and name them before you, Lord Jesus, in our hearts.

And finally, Lord we pray for ourselves. Help us Lord to follow your example in all that we do and say as we journey with you. We place ourselves, this Church and all your people into your loving care. Please accept these our prayers, in Jesus name.

Amen

Communion

Jesus said: 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty'. **Romans 5 v. 8** also tells us: 'God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us'.

An Invitation to the Table:

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body, his People.

A prayer of Approach:

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secret is hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

As we prepare to receive the bread and the cup, we hear the words of The Institution:

The Apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper, when he says: 'For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night that he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me'. In the

same way he took the cup also, 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. 1 Corinthians 11 v. 23 – 26

A Prayer of Thanksgiving before we eat the bread and drink the cup:

Loving God, we praise and thank you for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for his life and ministry, announcing the good news of your kingdom and demonstrating its power in the lifting of the downtrodden, and the healing of the sick, and the loving of the loveless. We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross, for the redemption of the world, and for your raising him to life again, as a foretaste of the glory we shall share. We give you thanks for this bread and wine, symbols of our world and signs of your transforming love. Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we might be renewed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and formed into his body. This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

WE NOW SHARE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND SHARE AND DRINK OF THE CUP

A Final Prayer of Acclamation:

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate. Your resurrection we confess. Your final coming we await. Glory be to you, O Christ.

Amen.

Song Suggestion

Amazing Grace



WHAT DO WE LEARN?

- Consider Judas
 - Jesus knows our unfaithfulness
- Consider the Disciples
 - We need to be concerned about one thing
- Consider Jesus
 - He enjoyed a meal with his disciples before becoming what they need to be forgiven

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.
Amen

Song Suggestion

Name Of All Majesty





Blessing

May the love of Jesus Christ bring us wholeness, the grace of God the Father grant us peace, the breath of Holy Spirit instil within us passion and the unity between them give us strength for this and every day.

Amen

