



## TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

### THE PRIMATE'S HOLY WEEK MESSAGE TO THE CLERGY

**I**N Holy Week, Christians throughout the world enter into the Mystery of the Sacred Triduum. We celebrate the Sacred Mysteries of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. Leading us through the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, His death upon the Cross, His harrowing of hell, and ultimately, His Resurrection from the dead on Easter Day.

Maundy Thursday commemorates two great Mysteries instituted by our Lord: The Institution of the Holy Eucharist and the Institution of the Sacred Ministry. In the washing of the feet, Jesus gave us example that we too should offer our priestly ministry in humble service to God's people. In His great priestly prayer, Jesus taught us to pray for the unity of His Church; to fulfill our mission of representing Christ to the world in service; and to express our ministry in love, leading the world to believe.

The institution of the Holy Eucharist and the institution of the ordained ministry are inextricably connected. The sacerdotal ministry is one of prayer, service, and mission. Those ordained to the sacred ministry are called by Christ to be His presence in the world, to offer prayer for His people and for the salvation of the world, and to bring to the faithful the saving grace of Christ in Word and Sacrament.

As priests, the precious gift of Christ in the giving of His Body and Blood for the life of the world is yours to offer to all who come to Christ seeking spiritual nourishment in Holy Communion. The transmission of the Gospel is yours to preach so that the world may know the way of salvation. The pardon and absolution of sin is yours to offer in the name of our Saviour Christ through the Sacrament of Penance. In the Name of Jesus, you are empowered to anoint the sick and administer extreme unction to the dying, that the souls of His faithful may know the Lord's Presence in healing, and in the hour of death. As living icons of Christ, your sacred ministry is essential for the mission of the Church, for the life of the world, for the salvation of humanity. Fulfill your ministry in faith and love; give everything to Him who has given everything to you.

Priests, as men of God, must be men of prayer, men of devotion, men of deep faith and abiding love. Anchored in the love of God, you are called out of the world to be in the world as faithful representatives of Christ and His saving Gospel. United to your Bishop, together with your brother priests in the presbyterate, you live out through your ministry the Great Commission of Christ to His Church.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, the great High Priest, bless you in your sacred ministry; fulfill in you His commandment to love; and grant His grace to live faithfully your calling in mission and service to His holy Church, all the days of your life.

*The Most Reverend Shane B. Janzen  
Primate of the Traditional Anglican Church*