

Maundy Thursday Litany

Before Dinner/Supper

Preparation

Leader: Covenant God, we bless and thank you for the gift of the meal that Jesus commanded us to share. We thank you for this sign of your presence with us and your love for the world that Jesus came to redeem. We long to feast with you Jesus in the fullness of your coming kingdom. May our worship this evening deepen our anticipation of that glory. Amen.

Scripture: John 13:1-17

Person 1: It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Person 2: The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Person 3: He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

Person 4: When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

After Dinner

Prayer:

Leader: Breath of God, quiet our hearts, hush our lips, open our eyes, and fill us with holy wonder as we look to Jesus, our host, our servant, our Lord. Amen.

Washing of Feet

Families and/or small groups are invited to wash each other's feet with the oldest member washing the youngest member first (if possible). A bowl of warm water and a towel will be needed. Before each member washes each other's feet this prayer may be said:

Leader: May this symbolic act not only teach us but also form in us a deeper desire to follow Jesus, to embody his love, to practice his humility. Lord Jesus, teach us what it means to live as members of your body. Amen.

A link for background music may be used: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cl3og-fPwPk>

Closing:

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:7-11).