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Maundy Thursday

April 1, 2021

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*In a world that urges us to rise to the top, Jesus invites us to descend into greatness by following his example of selfless service. Doing so will require us to lean on God's transforming grace, dying to self and rising to newness of life. It's not easy, but this is the pathway of abundant life.*

### **INVOCATION**

*We gather to worship in the name of the God who loves us, in the name of the Son who gives us new life, and in the name of the Spirit who brings wholeness and healing.*

**Let us worship God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May our love for one another be a reflection of the true love of God in Jesus Christ.**

### **GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE**

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.*

**We love because God first loved us.**

*If someone says, "I love God," yet hates his or her brother or sister, that person is a liar.*

**For one cannot love God, who is not seen, if one does not love a brother or sister, who is seen.**

*This, then, is the command that Christ gave us: anyone who loves God must also love one another.*

### **PRAYER**

*O Divine Master,*

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. Amen.

HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

#631

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

HOLY GOSPEL Part 1

John 13:1–11

*Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him,*

**Lord, do You wash my feet?**

*What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.*

**You shall never wash my feet.**

*If I do not wash you, you have no share with Me.*

**Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!**

*Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” For He knew who was to betray Him; that was why He said, “Not all of you are clean.”*

## **CONFESSION**

*We have more than dirty feet! Let us go to our loving Lord in humble confession.*

**We are soiled by sin in our inner being, O Lord. We are helpless to change ourselves by our own power and determination.**

*We have not loved one another in our thinking.*

**We have found friends who might give us compliments, rather than looking for people around us who may be isolated, alone, and in need of support.**

*We have not loved one another in our speaking.*

**We have complained about neighbors who irritate us, rather than putting the best construction on their actions and trying to put a smile on their faces.**

*We have not loved one another in our acting.*

**We have used our time and energy to make our lives easier, rather than lovingly assisting the people around us who have difficulty caring for themselves.**

*Heavenly Father, show us the true humanity of our Lord Jesus; help us grasp His great love for us on every level of our existence.*

**Forgive us, renew our trust in Your daily and eternal care, and lead us in paths of righteousness for Your name’s sake.**

**Amen.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Part 2

**John 13:12–17**

<sup>12</sup> When He had washed their feet and put on His outer garments and resumed His place, He said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you

also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

### **ABSOLUTION**

*Our Lord has washed away more than the dirt on our feet! In Holy Baptism, we were united to His death and resurrection; He has washed away all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### **SONG**

*The Basin and The Towel*

Michael Card

### **HOLY GOSPEL Part 3**

**John 13:31b-35**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek Me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### **SERMON**

*“Descending Into Greatness”*

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;**

through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **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;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen

## **DISTRIBUTION AND BLESSING**

**HYMN**

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*  
Go to dark Gethsemane,  
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;

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**your Redeemer's conflict see.  
Watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his griefs away;  
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment hall,  
view the Lord of life arraigned;  
oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
learn from him to bear the cross.**

**Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;  
there, adoring at his feet,  
mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry;  
learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

## **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

Reading of Psalm 22

*This is the night in which the man Jesus was betrayed. After He had instituted the Sacrament of His body and blood, He and the eleven disciples went out to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He knew Judas would come to set in motion the events leading to His crucifixion.*

*All that we see on the altar are symbols of our Lord, the light of the world, the Word of God in the flesh, the covering for our sins, and so on. This evening, they are stripped from the altar—which represents the man Jesus—just as He was struck, humiliated, tortured, and taken to the cross.*

*As the various items are removed, we hear the words of Psalm 22, which anticipated our Lord's Passion and which He seems to have prayed while on the cross. And then we depart until our worship continues tomorrow.*

*You are invited to stay for a time of silent prayer or to leave in silence at the end of the Psalm 22 reading.*

## **The Basin And The Towel**

By Michael Card

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 Savior Servant must show them how  
Through the will of the water  
And the tenderness of the towel.

Chorus:

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 Savior Servant must show us how  
Through the will of the water  
And the tenderness of the towel.

Bridge:

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.



## **What Is Maundy Thursday?**

By Alex Crain ( taken from Christianity.com)

Good Friday, we know. And Easter most certainly. But what is Maundy Thursday? Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter, believed to be the day when Jesus celebrated his final Passover with His disciples. Most notably, that Passover meal was when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples in an extraordinary display of humility. He then commanded them to do the same for each other.

## **What Does Maundy Thursday Mean?**

Christ's "mandate" is commemorated on Maundy Thursday--- "maundy" being a shortened form of mandatum (Latin), which means "command." It was on the Thursday of Christ's final week before being crucified and resurrected that He said this commandment to His disciples. Jesus and his disciples had just shared what was known as the Last Supper and he was washing their feet when he stated: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another"* (John 13:34).

## **What Was the New Commandment?**

Well, for one thing, it raised the definition of love to a new and higher standard. Jesus sacrificially met His followers' deepest need---that of new spiritual life and the forgiveness of sins. He even loved His enemies, and He calls us to show love to those who don't appear to deserve it. Just as Jesus loved sinners "to the end" (or "to the max" John 13:1) when He had nothing to gain from them, so must we. The Bible says that there was nothing attractive about sinful mankind that drew Him to love us. God loved us while we were yet *sinners* (Romans 5:8). Salvation is not only a wonderful gift that protects us from the penalty that we deserve Romans 6:23 , the work of Christ also embues new life, grants spiritual strength, and motivates godly action in those who believe:

Many churches observe Maundy Thursday with a Communion service and a foot-washing ceremony. These traditions help Christians reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus and his commandment for us to love and serve others.