



Home Liturgy

Maundy Thursday
April 9th 2020

What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday receives its name from the *mandatum* (commandment) given by our Lord: “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). At the Last Supper, Jesus washed his disciples’ feet and commanded them to love and serve one another as he had done. This day commemorates the Lord’s example of servant ministry, the institution of the Lord’s Supper, the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the betrayal leading to the crucifixion.

What You Will Need:

1. A copy of this liturgy, either on a device or in printed form, for each person participating with you
2. A candle and a lighter
3. A Bible or Jesus Story Book Bible
4. A cross to place at the center of the table
5. Basin, water, and towel

How to Engage the Liturgy:

It is typical to do a Maundy Thursday liturgy in the evening, and some of the symbolism works better then, but you can choose to do this liturgy when you would like. Before you get started, you may want to determine who will review the introduction, the section on foot washing, reflection questions, and various instructions. You can decide if you want to pray all together or have one person do that. It’s up to you how to participate!

THE LITURGY

LIGHT A CANDLE

Begin your time together by lighting a candle to represent Jesus, the Light of the world, and to remember his presence with you during this liturgy.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Blessed be our God

All: Now and for ever. Amen.

Leader: This is the night that Christ the Son of Man gathered with his disciples in the upper room.
This is the night that Christ our Lord and Master took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, calling us to love one another as he has loved us.
This is the night that Christ our God gave us this holy feast, that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim his perfect sacrifice.
This is the night that Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.
Let us pray.

All: God of love, as we prepare to remember the events of this poignant night, open our eyes to see the beauty of Jesus' self-giving love, and by your Spirit work in our community a desire and commitment to serve each other and our hurting world.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

CONFESSION AND GRACE

Leader: Let us draw near to God and confess our sins.

All: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Leader: Grant to your faithful people, merciful Lord, pardon and peace;
that we may be cleansed from all our sins,
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

(You may cross yourself with the sign of the cross as a reminder of your baptism and that you are a child of God.)

SONG OF PRAISE - [*Man of Sorrows*](#)

Feel free to just listen or sing along.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Read aloud: Exodus 12:1-14 OR The Jesus Story Book Bible, pg 84-91.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat.

5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

8 That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. 10 Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover. 12 “On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. 14 “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Read aloud John 13:1-17, 31-35 OR [The Jesus Story Book Bible, pg 286-293](#)

“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.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 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. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” 7 Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” 8 “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

9 “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!” 10 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.” 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

12 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. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ!

DEVOTIONAL - [*“Washing Feet”*](#)

SONG OF PRAISE - [*Stricken, Smitten And Afflicted*](#)

Feel free to just listen or sing along.

FOOTWASHING

Leader reads:

Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ:
On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the kingdom of God come not by worldly power and authority, but by such lowly service.

We are reminded of our Savior's words in John 13:12, "The Lord Jesus, rising from supper, laid aside his outer garments, took a towel, and washed his disciples' feet. Then he said to them, 'Do you understand what I have done to you? If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.'" And from John 13:14, "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."

We now take time to wash one another's feet as a symbolic act that reminds us of God's great love for the world and God's call upon us to love and serve others.

*Take your bowl/basin, pitcher filled with water, and towel. Simply pour water over a person's feet with the basin underneath. Then dry their feet with the towel. Take turns doing this to each other.**

As you wash each others feet, say,

**Each: As Christ humbled himself to serve me,
so I humble myself to serve you.**

**If you are alone on this Maundy Thursday, you can wash your feet as a reminder of what Christ has done for you, but then engage in another activity where you can serve another from afar, i.e., write a letter of thanksgiving and love.*

PRAYER

Take a few moments to pray for each other (invite kids to participate).

BENEDICTION

Say together:

All: May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you this night and forever. Amen.