

## Holy Week 2014: Maundy Thursday

### Maundy Thursday Background

Maundy Thursday traditionally commemorates the foot washing and last supper of Jesus with his disciples. It is rooted in the instruction that Jesus gave his disciples to “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34)

### Preparations:

1. Send out an email for a potluck meal
2. Let people know that feet will be washed so to come prepared
3. Prepare a large basin with warm water
4. Prepare a second empty basin for dirty water
5. Bath salts optional
6. A jug to scoop water
7. Dry towels

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### A. Opening Prayer

Christ, grant me grace to let you wash my feet,  
and washed, to let them stand or walk or run;  
as over mountain, desert, city street,  
they bring good news - unlikely victory won.

Christ, grant me grace to wash another's feet,  
and count it cause of neither shame nor boast  
nor think some merit makes my work complete  
since those forgiven most will love the most.

Christ, grant me grace to follow and believe  
in you who loved me to the bitter end;  
learn to receive you, as I shall receive  
those you have sent, and those you will yet send.

Christ, grant me grace to live, obey and love,  
sent to your world, commanded by your word:  
content if you direct my every move,  
your name be known, your kingly voice be heard.  
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

### B. Meal. Share a meal together.

### C. Lectio Divina (sit in a circle)

Read the passage to reflect on and follow the directions below. Make sure you allow time to reflect in between each reading – don't rush! Allow time for silence and reflection, even if it seems awkward.

**John 13:1-17** (see next page)

**1. Lectio** – One person reads the passage aloud. This first movement consists of reading the scriptural passage slowly and attentively. Identify words or phrases in the passage that grab your attention.

**2. Meditatio** – A second person reads the passage aloud. Next, spend some time contemplating the passage and the words or phrases that stood out upon first reading. Try praying the passage, opening your mind to God's understanding of this passage.

**3. Oratio** – A third person reads the passage aloud. After a third reading, share with each other the words that you focused on and perhaps the result of your meditation on them. (Read the passage and then have an extended time of foot washing – see below)

After the 3rd reading,

- Say the word or phrase that comes to mind
- Take turns going to the washing station (designated chair).
- Each person wash the person on their right.
- Use the jug to scoop clean water from the first basin.
- Pour warm water over their foot into the second basin
- Dry their feet with the towel

**4. Contemplatio** – Close by reading the passage a final time, try to ‘savor’ the words and thoughts shared earlier. (Read the passage one last time)

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### John 13:1-17

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. 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.

### D. Closing Prayer

*A Prayer from ~ Origen c. 185-c. 254*

O Jesus, my feet are dirty.  
Come even as a servant to me,  
pour water into your bowl,  
come and wash my feet.  
In asking such a thing I know I am overbold  
but I dread what was threatened when you said to me,  
"If I do not wash your feet I have no fellowship with you."  
Wash my feet then, because I long for your companionship.  
And yet, what am I asking?  
It was well for Peter to ask you to wash his feet,  
for him that was all that was needed for him  
to be clean in every part.  
With me it is different:  
though you wash me now  
I shall still stand in need of that other washing,  
the cleansing you promised when you said,  
"there is a baptism I must needs be baptized with."