

MAUNDY THURSDAY + April 9



Maundy Thursday gets its name from the Latin word *Mandatum*, meaning “commandment,” and it is Jesus’ final commandment to his followers in John’s Gospel, “Love one another as I have loved you,” that we remember today. The washing of feet, which has its origins in the Gospel according to St. John, is one of the most ancient and universal rites in the Christian Church. It is a reminder of the humility necessary to be ministers with one another. On Maundy Thursday we also remember the last supper that Jesus ate with his friends, which has become for us the Holy Eucharist. This year, we can remember the last time we received Holy Communion, and look again to receive

this gift, together, in the future. This prayer from Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) describes the heart of Maundy Thursday

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours;
no hands but yours; no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world.
Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.
Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.*



Add to your place set apart for Holy Week a bowl of water and a clean washcloth.

Maundy Thursday is offered in the evening as you are eating your evening meal. Begin the prayers before you start to eat, sitting down,

Psalm 116:15-17

- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,
17 In the courts of the Lord’s house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Collect of the Day

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Mercifully grant that we may, when the time comes, receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Reading

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Any of these blessings that are appropriate are prayed over the meal. When the meal is served, if you are eating with others, it is good to serve one another. If you are eating alone, you are in the presence of Jesus.

Over Wine

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and you have fed us on our way with the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. Let us be fed again soon with that bread of life. And as grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over the Other Foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Now you may eat the meal you have blessed.

When you are finished with the meal use these words:

The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, "Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done."

Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.

I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.

By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.

If you are with others, you may wash each other's feet gently with the water and clean cloth, or use a larger basin and warm water. If you are alone, use the clean cloth to gently wash your hands. You may also choose to symbolically wash the cross on your table—a sign of the body of Christ. You may also consider how you are called to service, now and in the future.

The washing of feet is a sign of humble service. In the face of suffering and death with which the world is filled, God's word of service comes to us. Even when we cannot meet for the holy supper together, the words of Jesus draw us together as we love the world—to serve for the reconciliation of all.

The Prayers

Pray for the world and for those deep in your heart, aloud or in the silence of your heart. You may use the prayer on the back page of this document if desired.

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

O God of the crucified and risen One, from whom no trial or trouble can separate us: you feed us with your Word and soothe us with your Spirit, closer to us than breath itself. Make us glad this night for the life of your servant Jesus; Make us servants of all for the sake of Jesus; who for our sake gave his life for the salvation of all. In the Name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. *Amen.*



After this prayer, gently remove everything except the cross from your place set apart for Holy Week.

Hymn *Were you there?*

The Hymnal 172

Sing on your own or sing with this video: <https://youtu.be/LRaFdFkOVyY>

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my lord?
Ooo-ooo—oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

...nailed him to the tree?
...pierced him in the side?
...laid him in the tomb?

A Corona Virus Prayer

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

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