



AT-HOME MAUNDY THURSDAY PRAYER SERVICE

May be practiced at any meal throughout the day on Maundy Thursday. A recording of this service will also be available on the church website and Facebook page. Join us if you are able!

You will need:

- 1) Clean hands and feet AND paper and writing utensil**
- 2) Bread (any kind) AND grape juice or wine**
- 3) A heart ready to remember Jesus Christ whenever and with whomever you dine**

1) Clean Hands and Feet

Read: Psalm 24: 3-6

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,

who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.

They will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.

Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Reflection/Directions: Go to your sink and wash your hands. As you do, take a moment for a prayer of confession – asking God to cleanse your spirit as well. Reflect on your Baptism and God’s promise – through Jesus – to always forgive you whenever you come with an honest, contrite heart. As you dry your hands, hear God’s words of assurance: “You are forgiven.”

Read: John 13:1-15:

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.” 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.

Reflection/Direction: Holy Communion helps us to remember Jesus as our servant leader who doesn’t ask us to do anything that He wasn’t first willing to do Himself (e.g. hang out with outcasts, feed the hungry, even wash the crummy feet of his friends!) He asks us all to be servant- leaders like Him. Take a moment to write

down a few ways that Jesus may be asking you to “wash the feet” of another, offering service to a neighbor, a family member, or in the world around you.

2) **Bread and Grape Juice or Wine**

Read: Matthew 26: 26-28; Luke 22: 19

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins...*Do this in remembrance of me.*”

Reflection: It is wonderful to note that it was “*while they were eating*” when Jesus took the bread and cup and instructed the disciples in how to celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

Can you just imagine Jesus sitting back, looking around the table, contemplating what would soon be coming next for Him and yet feeling nothing but love and compassion for his friends gathered around the table? And we know that what he says and what he does with the bread and with the cup will be the way His followers – in every age – will remember all that Christ has done for us: his body broken, his blood poured out for our salvation on the cross.

There is more to the act of remembering than just conjuring up words or imagery. When we really want to remember someone – we don’t just pull up a mental picture of them; instead, we really work to symbolically “put the person back together” as if they were right there in the room with us – remembering all the ways they influenced us. In this way, the person may live on – in us and through us. So, when Jesus takes the bread and breaks it and says *do this and remember me* – it’s not just his words or images of His broken body He wants us to recall. He is calling us to “put Him back together” as if He is in the room with us. Every member of the Church is called to a part of His body. Each one of us is called to work together to BE Jesus – **re-membered**.

Direction: Take your bread – and as instructed by Jesus, break it and eat it – remembering that Jesus said: *“This is my body, which is for you; do this and remember me.”*

Then, take your juice or wine and drink it, remembering that Jesus said:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

3) **A Heart Ready to Remember**

Reflection: With the taste of the bread and juice or wine on your lips, remember this:

- Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we remember Jesus;
- Whenever and with whomever we sit for a meal - we may also welcome Him in our midst;
- Whenever we give food to the hungry or drink to the thirsty – We serve Him – and serve *as* Him.

Direction: Remember, Give Thanks and Pray: Dear Lord, we remember you today and in this meal. We remember you every time we eat and drink. We thank you for the gift of new life that our faith in you brings. Bless us and give us strength to do your work in the world. May our lives bring glory to your name. Amen!