

Thursday 17th April 2025

Maundy Thursday

Gospel Reading

John 13.1-17,31b-35

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

13 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. **2** The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper **3** Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, **4** got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. **5** 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. **6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' **7** Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' **8** Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' **9** Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' **10** 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.' **11** For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

12 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?' **13** You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. **14** So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. **16** Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. **17** If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

The New Commandment

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. **32** If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. **33** 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." **34** I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Other Readings: Exodus 12.1-4[5-10], 11-14

Psalms 116.1,10-17

1 Corinthians 11.23-26

Homily

We gather on this sacred evening, Maundy Thursday, and we remember the Last Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ with His disciples.

This night is filled with deep meaning for all Christians, as we are called to reflect on the powerful themes of this day — sacrificial love, humble service, and the call to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin 'mandatum', meaning "commandment." Jesus gives us a new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." This love is not purely emotion, but self-giving, sacrificial, and deeply practical.

We are called to embody this love in our service. However we serve, our ministry must be rooted in Christ's love. It is not about power or recognition but about reflecting Christ's love in our actions, words, and presence.

In an extraordinary act of humility, Jesus washes His disciples' feet. This task was normally done by the lowest servant, yet Jesus, the Son of God, takes the role of a servant. After doing so, He tells His disciples:

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

For us, this is a reminder that Christian ministry and service is not about status, it is about servanthood, and we are called to serve with humility.

This means being willing to do even the smallest, unnoticed tasks with love. Just as Jesus did not consider any work beneath Him, so too we are called to serve others selflessly.

On this night, Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist, offering His body and blood as a means of grace and communion with God. Every time we partake in the Lord's Supper, we are reminded of His presence, His sacrifice, and His call for us to be a Eucharistic people — broken and given for the sake of the world.

Maundy Thursday is not just about love and service — it is also a night of betrayal. Judas leaves to betray Jesus. Peter, though full of zeal, will soon deny Him. The disciples will scatter in fear.

Yet in the midst of this brokenness, Jesus remains faithful. He still washes their feet. He still gives them the bread and wine. He still prays for them.

This is a lesson for us all — as we serve despite human weakness — our own and others'. People may disappoint us, and we may fail at times, but Jesus calls us to persevere in love. Our service must be marked by grace, forgiveness, and faithfulness, even in difficult times.

Tonight, as we reflect on the Last Supper, Jesus' command to love, and His example of humble service, let us recommit ourselves to:

- Love deeply and serve humbly.
- Be faithful in our ministry, even when challenges arise.
- Draw strength from the Eucharist, knowing that Christ is with us always.

May the Lord bless us as we continue to serve Him with joy, humility, and love. Amen.

Conversation Questions

1. Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, even knowing some would betray or abandon Him. How can we follow His example of humble service and love, even towards those who may hurt or disappoint us?
2. Maundy Thursday reminds us of the commandment to love one another as Christ has loved us. What practical steps can we take this week to show Christ-like love in our families, workplaces, and communities?
3. As we participate in the Eucharist, we are reminded that we are called to be the body of Christ in the world. How can we ensure that our roles and responsibilities—whether in church or daily life—reflect the sacrificial love of Jesus?
4. Is there anything else from the passage not already discussed that speaks to you? What is it?
5. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today? #everydayfaith

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer, responding to what you have heard today and listening to what God might be saying to you.

Collect of the day

*God our Father,
you have invited us to share in the supper
which your Son gave to his Church
to proclaim his death until he comes:
may he nourish us by his presence,
and unite us in his love;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

(or)

*God our Father,
your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end
and drank the cup prepared for him:*

*may we who share his table
watch with him through the night of suffering
and be faithful.*

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