



Maundy Thursday At-Home Service

Invitation

You are invited to participate in this Maundy Thursday liturgy at home using common household items. Consider inviting others to join you virtually via phone, FaceTime, Skype, Zoom (or whatever platform you are most comfortable using).

Whether you are with one another virtually, with those living in your home, or with the saints of every time and place, know that you are not alone. In this uncertain time, this is one way for us to hold faith, together.

Before you begin, take a moment to center yourself with this simple prayer:

God, make me aware of your presence in this moment and in this place. Amen.



Setting the Table

In preparation, gather:

- *Dark placemat or table cloth*
- *Candle and matches*
- *Dishes for meal*
- *Bowl for water & a pitcher with water & a small towel or napkin*
- *Bread*
- *Cup*
- *A living plant, leaf, or branch.*

Invite those with you, and those whom you love and miss, to gather with you around the table saying,



Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.

This night, as in that first night,:

The guest becomes the host;

The householder becomes the servant;

The lonely become the beloved.

Pick up the cloth or placemat and candle/matches, and place them on the table saying:

Let us set the table, and may it be God's table, this night.

Pick up the dishes for your meal, and place them on the table saying:

Jesus gathered with his disciples for a Last Supper to share with them, a meal that was Jesus' last will be the first meal for remembering God's love.

Let us set the table.

Pick up the bowl & pitcher, and place them on the table saying:

Before the disciples ate, Jesus washed their feet. The greatest will become the least.

Let us set the table.

Pick up the bread, and place it on the table saying:

Jesus took the bread, and gave thanks. The broken will be healed.

Let us set the table.

Pick up the cup, and place it on the table saying:

After supper, Jesus took the cup and shared it.
Everyone will drink of the cup Jesus shares.

Let us set the table.

Pick up the plant, branch, or blade of grass, and place it on the table saying:

Just as God met Jesus in the garden, God will meet us here.

Let us set the table.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.

Candle Liturgy

Recognizing that the word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word, *mandatum* - which means commandment - say together Christ's words:

**I give you a new commandment,
That you love one another.
Just as Christ has loved us,
Let us love one another.**

As you light a candle (or candles) read aloud the following words:

Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light.
And the light is Jesus Christ,
the One who shines in the darkness and whom no darkness can overcome.
Let us dwell with Christ this evening.

1 John 2:10

John 1:5

Sing together the chant portion of [Stay With Me \(Taizé\)](#)

Stay with me; remain here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray.

A Liturgy of Handwashing

In acknowledgement of the example set for us by Jesus – an example of humble, loving service through the act of washing feet (John 13:1-17) – you are invited to participate in a time of handwashing.

You may do the handwashing in whatever way(s) feel most comfortable (i.e., a pitcher, a bowl, and towels or simply at the sink).

If you are in a group setting, you are encouraged to wash one another's hands. If you are alone, may you rest in the knowledge that you are held in the loving, communal presence of the triune God.

Before the handwashing, as you wait before your source of water, you are invited to say these words aloud (if in a group, do so in unison).

In our brokenness, we know “not all of [us] are clean.” (John 13:11)

In our brokenness,
we disregard the cries of your creation,
echoing the words and actions of Pilate by claiming our innocence,
all while washing our hands as we ignore injustice. (Matthew 27:24)

And yet, God “had given all things into [Jesus’s] hands.”
So Jesus “set [for us] an example,”
to love through service and humility,
“to wash one another” as our “Lord and Teacher” washed us,
transforming brokenness into blessedness. (John 13:3, 14-15)

As you wash your own hands or the hands of someone else, you are invited to offer these words aloud. (Take time to wash and dry the hands slowly and thoroughly.)

Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you,
you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)

These hands are washed, bathed in love –
blessed not broken.

Scripture Reading

Mark 14: 12-16; 22-25

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.' So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

Blessing Before the Meal

As you prepare to eat, pray these words . . .

Bless us, Lord, and bless the gift of the food before us.

Grant us with understanding of the deep love given to us today.

We offer our thanks for the nurture you give to our bodies and souls.

Give us strength to grow and to serve you, always.

It is through Christ's holy name, we pray.

Amen

After your meal, you are invited to continue with the reading of Scripture.

Prayer for Illumination

As the shadows grow longer, and night gets closer,
may your Spirit shine light upon our way
and these words we are about to read. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Mark 14: 32-50

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.' He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and

pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.'

All of them deserted him and fled.

Response

*In response to the reading, please extinguish your candles.
May God bless us and our reading of Scripture. Amen.*

Reflection Questions

Where do you go to pray?

How do you watch and wait?

Why do you think it was hard for the disciples to stay awake?

Would you rather have the "hour pass" or the "cup be removed"?

When do you feel alone?

Prayer

As we watch and wait this night, O Lord, encounter us. Remind us of our communion with one another and with you. Let us feel your presence with us and with all the saints, as we pray together:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Benediction

We feel the weight of this moment in time,
yet we rest on these promises,
we are loved,
we are enough,
and God is here.
Even now,
may the blessings of God, the Creator;
the grace of Jesus, the Son;
and the presence of the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer
fill us with hope and grant us peace.
Amen.

Stripping of the Table

Maundy Thursday traditionally ends with a time of transition: from the celebratory meal with His disciples, to the garden, to the cross. As Christ has been stripped of all his power and glory, we symbolize that by stripping our own tables. At this time, you are invited to slowly and quietly remove all items from your table, one by one. If you so choose, return to the empty table for a few moments of silence to reflect on the sorrow and celebration ahead.