

Maundy Thursday

A devotional service for use at home



Today we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, with a central focus being on his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal and in Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet. So too, we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another.

This devotion is prepared in a way that can be used as a brief at-home service, either for the individual or for a family, offering time to read and reflect on the Gospel.

You may choose to include the ritual of foot washing where indicated, if you desire. If so, gather a bowl with water and towels before you begin.

Opening Prayer

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. In the washing of feet, he modeled for us how to serve. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Gospel Acclamation:

**We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind—
slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

Gospel: John 12.1.-3 The Anointing

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Devotional Time

Read through each poem stanza, hearing in each one a different voice and reflection on the text. These can be read aloud by different voices in your house, or read as a quiet reflection.

Voice 1:

On my knees –
getting personal:
coming close, touching, taking risks
of being misunderstood;

filling the air with fragrance, spilling it,
massaging calloused skin,
stiff joints, weary flesh –
how dare I?
Through intuition, imagination, love.

Voice 2:
On my knees –
doing something at once symbolic and down-to-earth,
about responsibility, respect
and remembering;
about life and death, ends and beginnings.
A representative person
who is also a human being
in a particular time and place:
frail, fallible, gifted
with intuition, imagination, love.

Voice 3:
On my knees –
when I'm down here
actions speak louder than words.
But so low (grassroots, shop floor, street level)
you cannot hear my voice;
and when you put me on a pedestal
you cannot see my face.
If we meet somewhere in the middle,
on common ground,
we can serve each other
and rise together –
sharing intuition, imagination, love.

Pause for a moment of silent reflection or discussion on the Scripture and poetry before continuing.

Gospel: John 13.1, 3-5 Foot Washing

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... 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.

Voice 1:

On your knees,
where you should not be,
your hair down,
decorum forgotten.
You look up, a brief moment,
your eyes flash
with intuition, imagination, love.

Voice 2:

On my knees,
anointing their feet,
praying they will understand
why they are twelve,
their call to serve
with intuition, imagination, love.

Pause for a moment of silent reflection or discussion on the Scripture and poetry before continuing.

Gospel: John 13.12-15

The Command to Serve

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.

Ritual of Foot Washing

On this night we have heard our Lord’s commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God’s love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

At this time, you may wash feet in your home. No words need to be spoken as feet are washed. Simply remember the loving act Jesus performed for his disciples and asked us to engage in with one another.

Alternatively, you can move on to the prayers of the people as a way to serve and remember our neighbors in this time.



Prayers of the People

**Let us pray for new life in the church, new hope for the world,
and God's love for all who are in need.**

Here your intercessions may be offered silently or aloud.

**We pray to you, O God, in the name of the one who endured the
cross, forgives our sin, humbles himself in service, and feeds us
at his table, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gospel: Luke 22.39-41 The Time of Trial Approaches

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed...

Voice:

On my knees,
in this garden of peace,
I sigh, I groan,
deserted and alone.
I sweat, I ache, I know
these final steps will take my all,
will take much more...

Dear God, Source of my life,
I do this for you, with you,
and your intuition, imagination, love.

Pause for a moment of silence.

Closing

Say or sing the words of the Taize song “Stay with me” as we await with Jesus what will come tomorrow.

Repeat until you feel it is time to draw to a close.

Stay with me
remain here with me,
watch and pray,
watch and pray...

Worship Notes

The contents of this Mountain View Lutheran Church worship folder were purchased for use from Wild Goose Publishing: service “With Intuition, Imagination and Love” by Sarah Agnew and Jan Sutch Pickard.

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