

# MAUNDY THURSDAY

*The household may engage in one or more of these suggestions as part of the evening meal. When more than one person is present, the Reading and the Collect should be read by one person, and the other parts said in unison, or in some other convenient manner. Use all or part of each liturgy as you see fit.*

## **Opening Collect**    *read by one or all*

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may 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.*

## **Handwashing before the meal**

*Set out a bowl of water and a clean towel. Read the following:*

On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by power, authority, or even miracle, but by such lowly service.

*All members of the household are urged to wash hands or feet, either one another's or one's own.*

## **Agape blessings for food at meal**

Over wine: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and on this night you have refreshed us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Over bread: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and on this night you have refreshed us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Over other foods: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King 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.

**Reading: John 13:1-17**

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.

*If a reflection is provided by your local clergy, read, listen or watch it now.*

**Reflections:**

- What personal, household and family rituals are an important part of your routine?
- What are some symbols of these rituals?
- Reflect on how hand-washing has taken on a different meaning during the pandemic and how hand-washing symbolizes self-protection by also protection of others.

## **Stripping of the Altar**

*At the end of the meal, strip the dining table of all items (tablecloth, place mats, coasters, candles) and wipe the table clean with a damp cloth. If possible, leave bare through Holy Saturday, at which time you may reset the table in preparation for a festive Easter meal.*

### **Psalm at end of meal: 116:1, 10-17 read by one or all**

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

10 How shall I repay the LORD \*  
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the LORD \*  
is the death of his servants.

14 O LORD, I am your servant; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.

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.

## **The Lord's Prayer**