



Worship at home- Maundy Thursday

How This Works:

On the first Maundy Thursday, Jesus and his friends, the disciples, gathered in a home to pray, hear Scripture, and eat. On this Maundy Thursday, when we are scattered to our homes, this worship service allows you to pray, hear Scripture, and bless your home. Though it is not a typical Maundy Thursday service, neither is this Holy Week a typical Holy Week for us.

The service follows a pattern: you'll first be directed to a particular part of your home. Read the Bible verses, pray the prayer, and ask God's blessing on that aspect of your home. There are several times you'll be directed to a new part of your home. May you find that your home is sacred space, and that God listens to your prayers at home as well as at church.



An at home worship for Maundy Thursday

Starting and Invoking

As we start these Three Holy Days, not as we feel we ought but as we are able, we look around our homes and see things that are holy, called for special tasks in our lives. These things that were once ordinary, that once received little thought now remind of sacred moments. They remind us of God who washes us, cares for us, feeds us, holds us, and invites us to do the same as a way of showing divine love to others. Let us pray for God's continued blessing on these things as a reminder of how God has loved us before, loves us now and will continue to love us in eternity.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who spreads forth the heavens like a tent, who shelters our lives, who comes to make a home with us. Amen.

Prayer

God of love, during these three holy days we give thanks for this night Jesus shared with his disciples. Between Palm Sunday's joy and Good Friday's sorrow, we join the last hours Jesus spent with his friends. Though even now we do not fully understand, we long to follow Jesus's example: serving as Jesus served, loving as Jesus loved. Jesus promised that if we know these things and do them, we will be blessed. Help us then to know and do all Jesus taught. Though we betray and deny, we still come seeking a blessing, for this much we know: we cannot live unless you bless us. Amen.

Blessing the shoes, towels, and linens

Gather your shoes or favorite towel, or stand at your linen closet. Is anything more safe than the feeling of being wrapped in a warm towel after a nice warm bath or shower? Or more comfortable than sliding into a freshly made bed? Is there anything more vulnerable than being caught unexpectedly in your pajamas, or worse yet just a towel? Jesus becomes vulnerable for the disciples by wrapping himself in a towel. He then challenges the disciples by honoring them by washing their feet, wrapping each foot in warmth and care.



John 13:1-6

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.

Pray

God of tenderness and compassion, on the night before he died, Jesus set a table for his disciples. Those who would soon deny, betray, and scatter. All gathered together. They took off their sandals and sat down in the presence of their Teacher and Lord, who washed their feet, one by one. We pray for people whose feet are tired and dusty from hard labor: like health care workers, distribution center employees, janitors, and grocery clerks. For those whose backs are bent by care and worry: families who are separated, those with conditions that make them exceptionally vulnerable, those who do not have job or income. For those laid low by illness or guilt or grief: for the family and friends of those who have died, those who have lost their way, those who have lost faith and security. Wash away, we pray, the tiredness of our bodies and souls. Hold gently in your healing hands the broken places in our lives and relationships. Be our company in isolation, our source of hope in despair, and the way forward at every dead end. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Bless

Guide us waking and walking, O Lord. Your people have walked out of slavery and into freedom with your guidance. With the Cross, Christ walks us out of sin and into New Life. Make our shoes supportive enough to remind us of your love. Make our socks warm enough to remind us how your love keeps us from blistering with the rub of life. May your word and love be a light to our paths and choices. Make our towels secure enough that we may know what it means to be care for by you and our sheets peaceful enough that we may rest in you. As we wrap ourselves in clean and comfortable fabric, remind us that your love is abundant and that through our actions and choices we can humble ourselves in love and extend the blessings of support, protection, security, and peace to our holy siblings. Blanket your world in love through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Blessing the sinks, tubs and places that we wash.

Fill your sink with water or start a load of laundry

In the water of baptism we are claimed as God's Holy Children. We are set apart as members of a family brought together for one purpose: to be loved by our heavenly parent. As members of this one family we have one goal: to love others in such away that they know we are part of this holy community. When we take a quick shower or long relaxing soak, when we wash our hands, food, or clothing, we know that just as soap and water clean the outside of us, God's love for us cleanses our hearts and spirits.

John 13:6-11

Jesus 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."


Pray

Our hearts struggle between faithfulness and betrayal. We are weak, but Jesus is steadfast. Trusting in the unwavering love of Jesus Christ, who had delivered us from sin and death through the waters of baptism, we love ourselves and others. Lord Jesus Christ, how well you know our hearts, and still you love us. You love us to the end. We have denied you and we have denied our calling to serve one another. We have betrayed your commandment to love one another. Pour out your Spirit of grace upon us. Teach us to love and serve one another by the example you have set for us; in your holy name we pray. Amen

Now the Lord Jesus Christ has been glorified and God has been glorified in him. Now the promise is fulfilled, and love's redeeming work is done. In Jesus Christ
WE ARE FORGIVEN! THANKS BE TO GOD!

Bless

O God, through the waters of baptism you raise us up and make us alive together with Christ. Through the washing of the disciples Christ shows us how to love. We offer these sinks and tubs before you. Bless the waters for washing. Wash away the strains and stains of this life, we pray. Let the waters of this sink cleanse, refresh, and renew all who use them in each new day. May all that pass through these waters be covered in your love and filled with new life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Blessing our food

Stand in your pantry or where you keep your food

There is nothing like our favorite meal to bring back amazing memories. Your favorite treat to bring joy even in the worst of times. And of course the Lord's Supper: the breaking of the bread and that sharing of the cup, becoming what we receive-- the body and blood of Christ for the world. From the manna on the wilderness journey to the feeding of the multitudes and finally a meal with close friends, God always feeds the holy family with what they need most: love and food. Yet, many in our world go hungry and long for love. When we eat we receive God's blessings not just for our bodies but for our spirits.

John 13:12-20

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, Jesus 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. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, 'The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."

Pray

God of all good gifts, I thank you for the invitation extended to all; for making a place for me whether I am faithful or faithless or a failure. You feed me and you call me to feed others. Help me to look into my cupboards and refrigerator not with longing for what is missing but with gratitude for the abundance of your blessings they have held and will hold. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Bless

Bless the food in my home. May it nourish my body as your Word nourishes my spirit. Preserve it and keep it from spoiling. Bless all whom I have fed and will feed, that they may be received with love wherever they go. Amen.



Blessing Tables and Dishes

Go to your china hutch or dinning table set for a meal

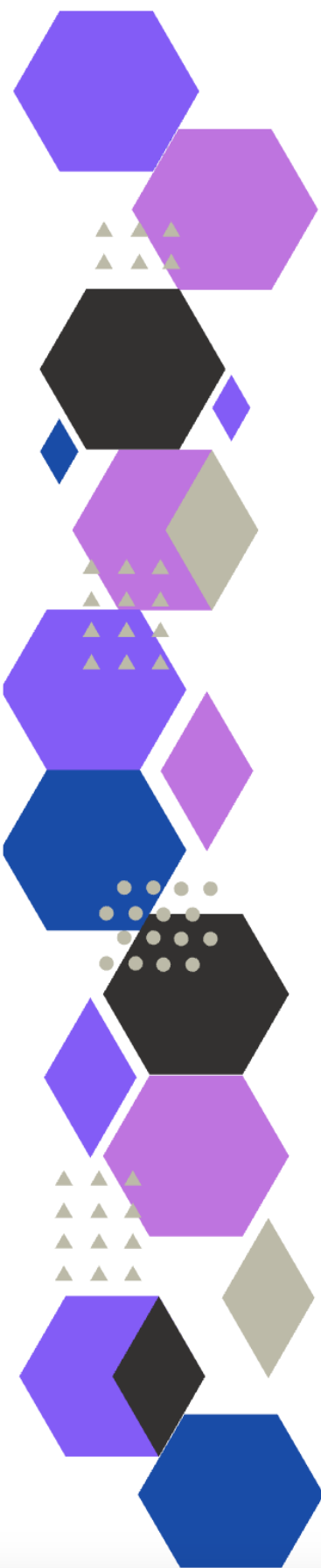
God calls us to the table. It is set before us in the presence of all people, our family, friends, our frienmies, and true enemies; the people we think deserve a place and the people who we think do not deserve to be there. Dishes are often an after thought, yet great chefs can tell you that how a meal is presented can completely change the experience. Our dishes hold blessings, but are never the star of the show. Our tables a place of welcome, but rarely the point of conversation. Is this how Jesus calls to us, to be vessels? We are the ones who carry the blessings but never the focus of the conversation. We the ones who gather round always for sake of presenting a true experience of Christ's love.

John 13:21-31

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once."

Bless

Loving God, as Jesus took a basin and poured the water long ago, we offer the bowls. Jesus took the bread and broke it; we offer the plates. Jesus called all to the table and fed them; we offer our dining spaces. As we were once brought though the water and filled with the Holy Spirit, bless the meals served here that those who eat might not be filled only with physical food but that their hearts are and spirits filled also. Make the food offered on these plates manna and gifts from heaven, that in all that is said and done around them might point to you and to the love we receive from your table. In the name of the one who is broken and shed for us, Jesus the Christ, Amen.



Closing and Continuing

Maundy Thursday is about not the end of Lent but the start of a new promise between God and God's children. As we look into tomorrow, we may feel as if it is all ending but our call to be Christ's body in the world is just beginning. God's love has never been greater than it is in these intimate moments of washing, holding, cleansing, and feeding. In some ways, we may long to live in these moments forever; yet, we must get up. There are things that need to be done and people who need to know they are loved. Hear Jesus once more...

John 13:31-35

"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.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Pray

O Lord our God, I end this worship knowing a love beyond my deserving. Thank you for giving me a place in your family, in your embrace, and at your table. Thank you for serving me with love and humility. Make me able to serve others as a living example of your love. Send me into my home and my community in humility and hope, that I might go from these moments with a renewed love for you and my neighbors. Watch over me in my times of trial and in my times of rejoicing through my savior and lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessing of Hands

Jesus washed his disciples' feet, clearing away the dirt of the day. Often, Christians remember his act of service through hand washing, an act with which we've become all too familiar these days. Our hands are raw from scrubbing. Our emotions, too, are raw in many ways-- through grief, disappointment, fear, and worry. Apply your favorite moisturizer to your hands as an act of love, just as Christ commanded us to love ourselves and one another, trusting that there is balm for all the raw places in our lives today and always. God bless and keep your hands.