



An online Agape Meal for Maundy Thursday

We welcome God into our homes to sit and eat with us, to wash us and to make us clean. You may wish to light a candle in your home and have some food prepared to share with wine

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his loving-kindness endures forever.
I was hard pressed, and almost fell,
but the Lord helped me;
You are my God, and I will praise you.
You are my God, I will extol you. Psalm 118*

Setting the Table

We gather today in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessed be you Divine Friend
Who eats with us and meets us in the daily round
Who weeps when we weep and rejoices at our rejoicing

Praise to you friendship giver,
For showing what love is,
For coming to our table and bringing us supper,
With the kiss of death hanging darkly over you
As you tenderly wash each travelling foot,
In the lastness of it all,
In the job of love to be poured out, come what may,
Praise to you.

Washing our Hands

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

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

Psalm 51

Surely You desire truth in the inmost being; You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoiced.

Washing of Hands

Our Lord humbled himself washing the feet of his disciples before they sat and ate together.

If you have a bowl of water nearby you may wish to wash your hands and / or feet at this point

We remember all the times so many have washed their hands out of fear of suffering and love for others in this time of Covid. We take a moment's silence to remember all who have died over the last year, and all who have served to help others in this time.

When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples
Their calloused heels softened in his palms
When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples
Their toes uncurled and opened as a psalm
When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples
The waters muddled slathered in regret
When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples
They closed their eyes pretending not to see
When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples
Their brows were drowned in his humility
When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples
Their hands shook as they hid them under thighs
When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples
The half moon cuticles bitten back by lies
When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples

The one who would betray was bathed by Love
When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples
Their pruny feet were feathered as a dove
When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples
The nations became the granulated sand
When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples
The creator held a flannel in his hand.

By Laura Darrell

The Meal

Reading: Matthew 26:17-26

¹⁷ On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

²⁰ When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve;^[c] ²¹ and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²² And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" ²³ He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me." ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." ²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

All: We Come to the Lords' Table

Not because we are rich but because we are poor

Not because we are entitled but because we are invited

Not because we know all things of God
But because we have seen a little of God's love and want to know
more.

We come as we are
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Reading: Matthew 26:27-29

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the^[d] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Priest: We are invited to the common table to share in an Agape Meal. At this table we come as brothers and sisters in the Holy Family of God. Taste and see that God is good.

While we eat together, you will be invited to share reflections on the things for which you are grateful and wish to give thanks.

Hymn: Love One Another (Tabernacle Choir)

Reading: Matthew 26:30

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Prayers of Intercession

See yourself and others encircled by the love, care and protection of the living God, who calls you, washes you, blesses you

Circle them Lord. Keep protection near and danger afar.

Circle them Lord. Keep hope within and despair without.

Circle them Lord. Keep peace within and anxiety without.

Circle them Lord. Keep light near and darkness afar.
Circle them Lord. Keep stillness within and tumult without
Circle them Lord. Keep trust within and fear without **Circle them Lord.**
Keep joy within and weariness without
Circle them Lord. Keep love within and loneliness without
Circle them Lord. Keep strength within and weakness without

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your
kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver
us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

May God bless each of us as we journey on.
In our times of need may we find a table spread in
the wilderness and companions on the road, and
until we meet again, may God hold us in the palm
of his hand.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit.
Amen