

About MAUNDY THURSDAY At-Home Worship

Welcome to this season of strengthening your worship of God in all areas of your life – including your dinner table!

All you'll need to do is follow the Maundy Thursday Placemat as your Order of Service for the evening. Before the meal, you'll read scripture, wash up, and bless the food. During the meal you'll discuss/reflect on the story (feel free to add to the reflection questions as needed, including remembering or sharing previous meaningful Maundy Thursday observances). After the meal, thanks is given for Jesus and his works during this holy week.

For your Maundy Thursday At-Home Worship, you'll need:

- *Copies of the MUMC Maundy Thursday Placemats for everyone at your table*
- *A “set” table—whatever you can do to make your table special. For adults/teens, you might even break out the china. In our family, since the kids are too young for china, we'll all be wearing “church clothes” (a vast difference from our recent all-day PJs wardrobe). Candles and centerpieces can also be a way to mark the meal as special.*
- *A Bible for the Passover Story in Exodus (or if you have younger children, a Children's Storybook Bible)*
- *If you're doing this as a family, assign someone to be the “leader.” Have the rest of the family join in during the **bold** parts.*
- *A “handwashing” or “footwashing” station (this can be your sink, backyard, or a bowl/towel/pitcher of water). This action before the meal is done in remembrance and imitation of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. The initial reaction might be like Peter's (You shall never wash my feet!), but Jesus explained his actions, saying “do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him (John 13:13-16).”*

As an act of humility and service, take turns washing each other's feet/hands or silently wash your own as you contemplate how Jesus the King humbled himself to save us.



GATHERING & PROCLAMATION

OPENING VERSES (from John 13:1-9)

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God.

So he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "No, "you shall never wash my feet!"

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."
"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

FOOTWASHING

SCRIPTURE LESSON—Exodus 12:1-20

BLESSING

Lord Jesus, be with us as we share this meal.

Prepare us to celebrate with faith the saving deeds you have worked for us, and let us share in your passing-over from death to life, both now and forever.

Amen.

SUPPER & REFLECTION

- What part of this story is your favorite? The most important?
- How does this story connect to Mark 14:12-26? To John 13:1-9?
- Where are you in this story—what part is about or for you?

RESPONSE AFTER THE MEAL

On this day, Jesus the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

On this day, Jesus gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

On this day, Jesus took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us.

With thanksgiving, let us offer God our grateful praise.

PSALM 117 (the scripture may be read or sung to the tune of Amazing Grace)

Praise give the Lord, you nations all; all peoples praise now bring.

Extol the Lord, you peoples all, extol Him—praise and sing!

His loving-kindness does abound; His love toward us is sure.

The Lord's great faithfulness endures forever—praise the Lord!

Let us pray. You are worthy of praise, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, and worthy is your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom you sent to deliver us from the bondage of death and slavery to sin.

Christ Jesus, though being in very nature God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross

In humility he descended from your heights, to kneel in obedience to love's commands. In his death, he ransomed us from death's dominion; in his resurrection, he opened the way to eternal life.

Therefore You highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. Give us strength to love one another and to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when Christ comes in final victory, and when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort our hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Amen. (from 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)