

# Maundy Thursday

## *What you will need:*

- Your computer/phone/ipad (Zoom)
- A table
- Access to a sink to wash your hands
- A candle and match
- Food and a beverage

## *Concerning the Service:*

*This Maundy Thursday service was designed for use in the home, around the dinner table (whatever shape that takes). This is adapted from a Service by The Rev. Josephine Robertson, All Saints Episcopal Church, Bellevue, WA.*

*One candle (called the Christ candle) should be placed on the table – it will be lit during the service.*

## Welcome of guests

*Host welcomes everyone by name and introduces themselves as people gather.  
The host asks for 3 volunteers to read the stories later in the gathering.*

## Preparation – hand washing

*Host: We begin by washing. We cleanse our hands as we are cleansed in the waters of new birth. We do this not because we are afraid, but because we were commanded to love: and to cleanse our hands, and gather in spirit, is how we love the vulnerable, whom Jesus loved. May we be instruments of love. May the sacrifices we make be for the good of our human family near and far.*

*Guests/Host are invited to go to their sink to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water. Once washed each person takes a place at their table.*

## Preparation – candle lighting

*Host: As Jesus traveled he spread light wherever he went, light that could not be extinguished. Tonight, we light our candles. You are invited to light your candle in honour of one of the following, or to add another.*

*“I light my candle in honor of:*

- *the women who attended him or his mother Mary or*
- *the disciples or*
- *the sick he healed or the poor or....”*

*Host invites each person to share their honoring statement.*

## Opening

*Host:* Tonight is a holy night. Tonight we join with Christians around the world as we remember the last night our Lord spent with his friends. We gather around a table, and with all those who remember tonight. Though we are dispersed, we are together, in spirit and in truth.

Tonight is about friendship, and love. But not all the stories tonight are happy, because suffering and evil are real. So tonight we will bless our meal, we will share stories, and we will pray together.

## Blessing of the Meal

*Host invites all to pray a blessing.*

*Host:* Holy and lifegiving God,

*All* **we thank you for the bounty of your Creation laid before us. We ask you to bless it, that it may be to us a holy meal. We give thanks for all those who labored so that it might sustain us, and we ask that through it you would give us the strength to be your good stewards; to care, and tend your creation, and to care especially for our siblings, all the people of this world. Tonight, be with all the members of our community who we love and miss, those who cannot be here with us to share this meal. We ask these things by the grace of Jesus Christ our Brother and the Holy Spirit our friend and guide. Amen.**

*Everyone is invited to eat their meals while a few stories are read.*

## The First Story

*Matthew 14.13-21*

### **Feeding the Five Thousand**

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. *(Reading taken from the NRSV)*

## The Second Story

*John 13.1-17, 31b-35*

### **The Last Supper**

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.

"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. 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."

*(Reading taken from the NRSV)*

## The Third Story

*John 18.1-11*

### **The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "For whom are you looking?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he", they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "For whom are you looking?" And they said, "Jesus of

Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

*(Reading taken from the NRSV)*

## Closing Prayers

*Host:* Our dinner is over, the waiting begins. Tonight Jesus was alone, under arrest, and awaiting his death. Tonight his friends were alone with their guilt, shame, and fear.

Tonight we are missing our normal routines, our communities, and friends. Many are alone, isolated and afraid, Jesus waits with us all tonight, even as we wait with him. Let us pray.

*Host:* Holy One,

*All:* Draw near to your people this night, wait and watch with us; for our hearts are heavy. Send your holy angels to watch over the sick, and to guide the hands of those who tend to them. And we ask you, comfort us as a Mother soothes her beloved children. May we watch, and wait, strengthened by your presence. Amen.