



**St. Mary's Agape Meal
Maundy Thursday 2025, 7pm**

Introduction

Maundy Thursday is a profoundly significant day. On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples, his closest friends, when he may have celebrated the Passover meal with them. He followed the traditions of the meal, but also turned them around to say something different. In this service, as we gather as friends, we meet together to remember how he celebrated with his friends in their culture and tradition, but also to relate it to our own practices and customs. We will start off by looking at the account in John's Gospel, breaking it into short passages.

John 13.1-2

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.

Let us pray

Lord, we come in the awareness of the love with which you love us, the love that loves us to the end.

We thank you for your love for us, for the love that took Jesus to the cross.

As we open ourselves to the awareness of your love, we know that, like Judas, we make choices that hurt you and let you down.

We hold the awareness of that before you, acknowledging our failure before you, knowing that we do not deserve your love.

John 13.3-9

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!”

Foot Washing

In Jesus’s culture, the washing of feet was an important part of the practice of hospitality, similar to providing a place for guests to wash their hands in our culture. In Jesus’s time, it would normally have been done by a servant, or the person themselves, but Jesus took on the task himself, demonstrating that his way was one of service, not status. Since the early days of Christianity believers have re-enacted Jesus’s way by washing the feet of others.

If you feel comfortable doing so, we encourage you to join in that simple act and have your feet washed as part of this service, but if you would rather, we invite you to have your hands washed for you. We join with Peter in acknowledging our need of God’s cleansing. Like him, we are embarrassed as Jesus reaches out to take the smelly, unpleasant parts of us into his hands. But, as he does to Peter, he tells us that that is what is needed to make us clean. In confession, we expose the parts of ourselves that are mucky, stained by our journey to this place. In symbol, through one another, we allow him to make us clean.

John 13.10

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.”

Song

From Heaven, You came helpless babe
Entered our world, your glory veiled
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live

*This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to The Servant King*

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load he chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
"Yet not My will but Yours", He said

Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered

So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving

This is our God, the servant King...

John 13.12-17

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.

Grace

We eat together

Reflections: What does the story of the washing of feet mean to you? What, in our society, does it mean to follow Jesus' call to wash one another's feet?

Song

Love is His word, love is His way,
feasting with men, fasting alone,
living and dying, rising again,
love, only love, is His way.

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

Love is His way, love is His mark,
sharing His last Passover feast,
Christ at His table, Host to the Twelve,
love, only love, is His mark.

Love is His mark, love is His sign,
bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
'This is My body, this is My blood,'
love, only love, is His sign.

Love is His sign, love is His news,
'Do this, 'He said, 'lest you forget
all My deep sorrow, all My dear blood,'
love, only love, is His news.

Love is His news, love is His name,
we are His own, chosen and called,
family, brethren, cousins and kin.
Love, only love, is His name.

Love is His name, love is His law.
Hear His command, all who are His:
'Love one another, I have loved you.'
Love, only love, is His law.

Love is His law, love is His word:
love of the Lord, Father and Word,
love of the Spirit, God ever One,
love, only love, is His word.

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord:
better than splendour and wealth.*

Agape Meal

1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Jesus took ordinary things, the basic foods of everyday, bread and wine and asked his disciples, when they shared these ordinary, familiar things, to remember him and recognise his presence, his gift in them. We do that today not as a formal communion, but as an agape meal. We share bread and wine together, as friends at a shared table, remembering that Jesus, by his Spirit, is present with us.

John 13:31b - 35

"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."

Prayers

Ending with 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.**

Song

Meekness and majesty
Manhood and deity
In perfect harmony
The Man who is God

Lord of eternity
Dwells in humanity
Kneels in humility
And washes our feet

*Oh what a mystery
Meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship
For this is your God
This is your God*

Father's pure radiance
Perfect in innocence
Yet loves obedience
To death on a cross

Suffering to give us life
Conquering through sacrifice
And as they crucified,
pray's "Father forgive"

Wisdom unsearchable
God the invisible
Love indestructible
In frailty appears

Lord of infinity
Stopping so tenderly
Lifts our humanity
to the heights of His throne

Oh what a mystery...

We make our way to the Lady Chapel – the garden

Mark 14.32–42

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Reflection by Richard Sewell

Watch with me (Taize)



Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray.

Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me,
from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.
Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.
But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.
All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
"Commit your cause to the LORD;
let him deliver— let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"
Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Mark 14.43–50

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." All of them deserted him and fled.

People go out to strip the Church.

The vigil begins and will go on until midnight. You are welcome to stay for as long or short a time as you choose. Please leave quietly.