

A Wednesday Maundy Thursday Service

These days of Holy Week, 2020, our lives aren't happening in the same order as any of us are accustomed to. Here's one more "out of order" thing--a Maundy Thursday liturgy planned for Wednesday.

In the actual sequence of events, Jesus washed the disciples' feet and they shared a meal on Thursday. It is called Maundy Thursday because of the Latin word, "maundatum" meaning "mandate" or command of Jesus when he says, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another even as I have loved you." John 13:34. In this week of daily worship, we chose to move the foot washing and meal to Wednesday to allow more time to focus on the rest of Maundy Thursday's events tomorrow.

God Calls You to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

I light this candle to remember that Jesus is with me.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

As a prayer: Have mercy on me and grant me your peace.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

As a prayer: Praise and glory to you, O God.

-John 1:29

Gathering Song

Choose a favorite song that draws you into worship.

- *Holy, Holy, Holy* LUYH 538 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Come, Now Is the Time to Worship* LUYH 526 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)
- *Jesus Loves Me* LUYH 709 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Be Still and Know that I am God* LUYH 907 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Use the following prayer or your own, giving voice to the realities of the day within the greater context of the promise of the resurrection, and ask for the Holy Spirit to work through this time of worship.

God of all hope,
I worship you today deeply aware
of the world's grief and pain --and my own.

Send your Holy Spirit here and
comfort me with the sure knowledge
that my Lenten journey will end in Easter joy.

Amen.

-adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*, J.1.4.9; used with permission

God Speaks to Us and We Respond

Scripture Reading

- John 13:1-17; Luke 22:14-20
- Since this story is very familiar, you might find it refreshing to read it from a Children's Bible such as "The Servant King" *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, Sally Lloyd-Jones, © 2007, Zonderkids, p.286-292.

Reflecting on God's Word

- In these days of social distancing, gathering to wash one another's feet isn't allowed. Fill a bowl with water, and grab a few clean towels. Pause to pray, thanking Jesus for this lesson, acknowledging that doing this action alone feels strange because the point was to receive the love and service from Christ. Imagine Christ himself rinsing your feet with water and drying them off. When you're done, simply say "Jesus calls me clean."
- Reflect on the following:
 - Imagine how the disciples must have felt when Jesus got down on his knees and began removing their sandals. Their feet were dirty! Our feet are dirty! We typically don't want anyone, especially our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ cleaning our mess. But that is exactly what Jesus did. And that is exactly what Jesus has done for you.
 - Imagine if you were with a group of others for this activity? Which do you think would be more uncomfortable: to wash someone else's feet or have your own feet washed by another? Live in that discomfort for several moments.
- Make a small snack or meal to commemorate the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. Speak Jesus' words "I eat this bread, remembering Christ's sacrifice, and I drink this cup to remember Christ's blood shed for me," as you meditate and reflect on his love for you.

Sung or Spoken Response

Use one or more of the following songs to reflect and meditate. Listen to the link provided, or read the text from a hymnal, or sing together as you are able.

- *Meekness and Majesty* -LUYH 157 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

- *Be Thou My Vision* -LUYH 859 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Beautiful Savior* -LUYH 17 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer or use the following one.

Loving Lord, you taught me compassion.
 You took a servant's role and knelt at the feet of your friends.
 You gave me a meal to remind me of your life-giving love.
 You called me to love others too.
 Forgive me, Lord, for not practicing the compassion you modeled.
 Forgive me, Lord, for wanting to be served rather than to serve.
 Forgive me, Lord, for not loving as you called me to love. **Amen.**

-Adapted from The Worship Sourcebook, L.2.2.2 p. 603

God Sends Us

While you may not be leaving your home during this week, you are still called to be Christ's presence in your relationships, on zoom calls, and social media posts, thus continuing your worship of God in all you do and say. Read this verse of praise aloud.

Closing Verse

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
 to receive power and wealth
 and wisdom and strength
 and honor and glory
 and praise!**

-Rev. 5:12

Blessing

Hear these words of blessing spoken to you from God. As you are comfortable, use motions to point before, behind, beneath, above, and beside as this will help you memorize this blessing over the week.

**I, your God will go
 before you to guide you
 behind you to protect you
 beneath you to support you
 above you to watch over you
 beside you to be your friend.**

Do not be afraid.
Go forth in peace.