

Daily Worship for Holy Week and Easter

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A Wednesday Maundy Thursday Service

These days of Holy Week, 2020, our lives aren't happening in the same order as we 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 us to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

Why do we light this candle?

To remember that Jesus is with us.

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

Have mercy on us and grant us your peace

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

Praise and glory to you, O God.

-John 1:29

Gathering Song

You are encouraged to sing or listen to one or more of the following songs:

- *Oh, How He Loves You and Me* [lyric video](#) | [sheet music](#)
- *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,
we gather today deeply aware
of the world's grief and pain --and our own.
Send your Holy Spirit here among us and
comfort us with the sure knowledge
that our 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

- “The Servant King” *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, Sally Lloyd-Jones, © 2007, Zonderkids, p.286-292
- John 13:1-17; Luke 22:14-20

Reflecting on God's Word

- Wash each other's feet! As awkward and uncomfortable as it might be, give this a shot! Fill a bowl with water, and grab a few clean towels. Take turns washing another person's feet by having them place their feet in the bowl. Rinse the person's feet with the water, using your hands or a cup, and then dry them off. When you're done, simply say “Jesus calls you 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 want nobody, 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 us.
 - Is it uncomfortable to put yourself in a position of washing someone else's feet or having your own feet washed this evening? Live in that discomfort for several moments.
- Share a meal/snack together and remember Jesus' sacrifice. Share Jesus' words “We eat this bread, remembering Christ's sacrifice, and we drink this cup to remember Christ's blood shed for you” as you pass food and drink around the table.

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](#)
- An option especially for those with young children:
God is So Good -LUYH 777 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
There is a Redeemer -LUYH 833 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer or use the following one.

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

-The Worship Sourcebook, L.2.2.2 p. 603

God Sends Us

While many of us will not be leaving our homes during this week we are still called to be Christ's presence in our households, on zoom calls, and social media posts, thus continuing our worship of God in all we do and say.

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

Speak this blessing to those gathered with you. 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 and truly speak it over each other.

May God 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 in peace.