

The Meaning of Maundy Thursday

The Thursday before Easter Sunday, also called Holy Thursday, is a service to commemorate Jesus' Last Supper with the Apostles and the beginning of our sacrament, the Lord's Supper. The word Maundy comes from the Latin mandatum, which means "commandment."

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). Prior to breaking bread with the disciples, Jesus washed their feet. Maundy Thursday worship services include Holy Communion and sometimes foot washing as well.

Four events are commemorated on Maundy Thursday: the washing of the Disciples' feet by Jesus Christ, the institution of the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion) at the Last Supper, the agony of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the betrayal of Christ by Judas Iscariot. After the Supper, Jesus went outside the Old City of Jerusalem and came to the Garden of Gethsemane. Because Jesus knew what would befall him, he prayed and wept, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42 – NRSV)



Maundy Thursday

United Methodist Church
Minden, Nebraska
Pastor Peter Choi
Maundy Thursday Service
April 14, 2022

Maundy Thursday Service Order

Word of Welcome

Call to worship!

L: A table is set before us. A feast is prepared for us.

P: A meal of bread and wine, of meat and bitter herbs.

L: The Lord calls us to this supper of remembrance.

P: The Lord calls us to serve and to be served.

L: As we break the bread and share the cup,

P: our understanding may fail us.

L: But we will never forget Christ's example.

P: We will never forget the full extent of his love.

Opening Prayer

Ever-gracious God, we gather in this evening hour as friends gathered with Jesus in an Upper Room long ago. We come bearing the marks and burdens of a bitter and broken world. We come from anonymous places, with dry and thirsty spirits. Remind us, in the breaking of the bread, of our need and of your great sufficiency. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness. Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to you in the covenant of faithfulness and thanksgiving. As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ, our friend and Redeemer. AMEN.

Opening Hymn

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

UMH 297

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

based on John 13:1-17, 34-35 (NIV)

“The Servant Song” FWS#2222 vs.1-3

WASHING EACH OTHER'S HANDS

As a sign of Christ's love at work in us, we serve one another and are vulnerable to one another

Hymn

UMH#298

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

THE LAST SUPPER—Holy Communion

Prayer after Communion

God of grace, your Son Jesus Christ left us this holy meal of bread and wine in which we share his body and blood. May we who have celebrated this sign of his great love show in our lives the fruits of his redemption: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Stripping the Church

Closing Hymn

UMH #301

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

Benediction

May Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you this night and forever. Amen.

All depart in Silence.