

# Maundy Thursday: God's Will And Joyful Service

*"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you,  
and that your joy may be full." John 15:11*

## Opening Hymn – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

## Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Litany

P Jesus said: "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love,  
**C just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.**

P I have told you this so that my joy may be in you  
**C and that your joy may be complete."** (John 15:10-11)

P Jesus taught: "Blessed are you when people hate you, and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

**C Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven."** (Luke 6:22-23a)

P The Psalmist writes: "Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight.

**C I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God."** (Psalm 43:4)

P "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**C Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."** (Psalm 100:1-2)

P "The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

**C The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes."** (Psalm 19:8)

## Responsive Prayer

P O Lord, we welcome the opportunity to make a joyful noise before you, O God, our Rock and our Redeemer. We come here tonight to offer our worship and praise. Yet, joyful noises are not easy for everyone to make.



**C Some of us are burdened down with the stresses of daily life; some are weary from tasks of serving others; some worried over the state of the world and where it will lead.**

P Speak to us all, O God, in the stillness of this time and remind us of Jesus' willingness to take our burdens upon himself and to learn from him.

**C Let us experience his gentleness and steadfast love, for Jesus offers us his joy, so that our joy might be complete.**

P Confident in these promises, we offer this time of worship to you, O God, praying that it may reflect our praise and thanksgiving for all that Jesus has done for us.

**C Let his joy be in us, that our joy may be full. Amen.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

P Gracious God, we recognize in ourselves the strengths and weaknesses of Jesus' first disciples:

**C although they loved him, they disappointed and failed him.**

P And yet, gathering with these imperfect friends at this last meal Jesus washed their feet in service, and then extended the bread and cup to each. Jesus called them to love one another, and invited them to share in his very life and in his acceptance of the road ahead.

**C We are humbled, honored and inspired by the deep love Christ extended to the world, and we take seriously the calling to be the body of Christ today.**

P Forgive us when we disappoint and fail you, and guide us back to a place of trust and faithful, joyful living.

P Upon this our confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ you are forgiven of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen

### **Prayer of the Day**

**On the night you were betrayed, Jesus, you spoke of joy: joy of abiding in you, joy of doing the Father's will, joy of bearing fruit. Please, give me that joy. I want your delight to be in me; I want my heart to be full. I want to rejoice in the Father's will. I want to bear much fruit. Pour out your Spirit, Lord, that I may will and do what is pleasing to you.  
Amen.**

### **Children's Message - a towel and a pitcher of water**

Today is Maundy Thursday, the day that Jesus had his Last Supper with his disciples on night before he died on the cross. On this night, Jesus did something very special before he gave his body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Can anyone tell me what he did first? (*Hold up towel and picture of water.*) That's right! He washed his disciples' feet.

Now that was something that was very unusual for someone like Jesus to do. Washing feet was usually done by the lowliest of servants. Feet in those times were pretty nasty – only sandals walking and walking everywhere they went in the sand, dirt and shorelines.

So why do you think Jesus did this? (*Allow children to respond.*) He washed the disciples' feet because he wanted to show them that he was there to be their servant. And he told his disciples to wash one another's feet. Why do you think he said that? (*Allow the children to respond.*) That's right! He said that because he wanted them to serve each other too.

We read in the Bible that Jesus did everything when he was on this earth, “for the joy that was set before him” (Hebrews 12:2), even washing feet and even dying on the cross to forgive our sins. He served us to the very end with joy in his heart for each one of us. And we should have joy in our hearts, too, each time we serve. Serving does not have to be a burden. It can be something we are happy to do to help someone we love. So the next time your mom or dad asks you to set the table or take out the trash or clean up your room, do it with joy, and see it as a way to serve like Jesus served because of the love we have for one another. Happy are those who serve with love. Let us pray:

Dear Jesus, thank you for serving your disciples on the night you were betrayed and giving us an example of how we should humbly serve one another with great joy in our hearts. May everything we do for one another be a way of honoring you for all that you did for us on the cross. Amen.

**First Reading**, Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and

beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.”

**Second Reading, John 13:1-17**

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not 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, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.” When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

**Third Reading, John 15:8-12**

P By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**Fourth Reading, Mark 14:22-26**

And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to

them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

## Message

Tonight in our message we will hear from a lowly servant who was there – who say it all go down and witnessed the Son of God serving his disciples by the washing of their feet. Even more so, he watches as Jesus finds joy in doing it as well. Serving one another with joy is a tribute to him who is the Servant of all. So tonight we listen to the servant, Solomon.

Hello everybody. Sol here. Well, my real name is Solomon—like the king that was long on wisdom, you know. My master said he’d rather call me Sol for short.

So I guess you’re all gathered here tonight to hear about what happened that night with Jesus and the disciples. I already told all this to the authorities, I don’t really know much. The big thing was I know I heard him say ‘In a little while you will see me no more and then after a little while you will see me.’ Maybe he had been tipped off about the arrest; how would I know? And if he had, maybe he was coming with a plan for lying low and meeting up later, I don’t know anything about it. There was a lot of confusing language about vines and branches, so I told the authorities that if he’s missing, he might be at some vineyard. He was expecting his followers to need a lawyer or Advocate, I heard that too. But they all used code language—they didn’t confide in me, I swear.

The whole thing started on the first day of the Festival. These strangers came to the door about mid-morning. I remember the time because ol’ Caleb had just returned from fetching water. That was strange. “Don’t you mean to send Miriam or one of the other women?” I’d asked my master. It was very irregular to send a man to fetch water, Caleb would be humiliated. And Caleb couldn’t exactly do so without everyone noticing—him so tall, he’d stand out like a sore thumb. No, though, my master said he meant to send Caleb.

Do you think it could have been some kind of signal?! Because really soon after he came back with the water, the strangers knocked on the door to see my master.

“Sol, show these men to the upstairs room,” my master said. Up we went. I noticed then that they were Galileans, come, no doubt, for the holidays. Passover, for sure. Though it’s not unusual for these country people to stay on for Pentecost as well.

I swear to you, even though I could tell they were Galileans, I had no idea they were connected to THAT Galilean. And even when the whole party arrived that evening, it wasn’t easy to tell.

The room they were in wasn't the only room in the house. You know how things are in Jerusalem over the holidays: four or five families where there is usually only one. Caleb and I were working our way through the rooms, saying welcome and washing feet, just extending the normal hospitality, you know.

Upstairs, they couldn't wait for us, I guess. I got upstairs and they already had their own slave there ready to wash their feet. But—you won't believe this—it was really their leader, that Jesus character, dressed as a slave, ready to wash their feet! Anarchists! What is the world coming to?

I was just about to say something, when one of them objected first—the one they called the Rock – I think I heard his name was Peter really. He said “YOU want to wash MY feet? No, never.” I was thinking, right, at least ONE person in the room had some sense.

And then the leader showed his true colors. Dressed as a servant, he ordered like a king: “Unless I wash you, you and I are finished.” So the Rock let himself be washed.

See, that's when I knew the Jesus movement couldn't last. What kind of an uprising could be so confused about such basic stuff? Was he a leader or was he a servant? He didn't know; He wanted to be both. Take it from me, I know a thing or two about being a slave. You don't get to call the shots if you're a slave. You drink the cup that's poured for you. And that's it.

And I know a thing or two about bosses: they don't do the foot-washing, they don't do the cooking, and they don't do the cleaning up. They do the eating and the drinking. They don't come to serve, but to be served. I'll tell you what. If I ever had a shot at being a boss, you wouldn't catch me ever dressing like a slave again. A high position is something you grab and hold onto for dear life!

Yet here is this rabbi, this rebel, this messiah, acting like a slave, but a slave in charge. Crazy! We left them to it, just leaving some unleavened bread and dipping sauce on the table.

When I came back, a little later, with the bitter herbs ... well ... I almost didn't need to bring those either. Everyone around the table looked like they'd already eaten bitter herbs. One place was empty—I thought I'd heard someone stamping off into the night. Hey, if you're so interested in what happened, maybe you should ask that guy. Of all of them, he looked like the one with his feet on the ground! He might know the secret plan, if there was one. The Rock guy sure didn't know what was going on! He looked as offended as if he'd been called a liar or something. And everyone was looking either mystified or unhappy.

I heard their leader (now fully dressed and back in his right mind, at least temporarily) sensibly saying “Don't let your hearts be troubled.” But he kind of spoiled it by following that with “You trust in God, trust in me the same way.” OK, WHAT? That was obviously a mistake.

Comparing yourself to the Most High, expecting the kind of trust that people give God?

But this is where he started talking about going away—this was the part that the authorities were most interested in—apparently he thought he could go back to his parents' home and lie low there. I didn't know then, but I know now that the guards wanted to arrest him that very night. He was proposing to give them the slip by going to his father's house, where he would prepare places for all them. He tells them this all smug and self-confident. That didn't work out either, did it? They arrested him before he could get out of town.

I'd served them some more bread and wine too, while this leader of theirs droned on, talking in circles: they are in him, and he is in them, and everyone is in his father—I didn't get any of that. What does that mean anyway?

And then—joy. He told them that they would be happy!

I mean, really???. Joy! We're all looking for a leader who would fight the Ro... well, would fight, you know who? You need good men around you for that. You take strong men and incite them with rage. Then we're talking! But joy? When's the last time you heard of a great general who inspired his men with happiness? Joy is great, but it's too patient, too kind, knows nothing of striving. Joy doesn't fight, it doesn't envy. It's the enemy of pride, it won't help you get your own back on others, it isn't easily angered, it keeps no record of the wrongs much less seeks to settle accounts.

I've heard he had quite a following when he was alive. He must have just mesmerized people with contradictions. "I'm in you. You're in me. I'm going away. I'm coming back. I'm your leader. I'm your servant. Ask anything and I will do it for you. If you love me, do what I command." Crazy talk. Listening to him makes your head spin. Listening to him, you could forget who you were.

It was about this time that he started talking about vines and branches, like I told you, and about not being servants nor bosses but friends. They all looked as hopelessly confused as I felt, but, whatever, they're his friends, now. And the talk about sneaking off and going to his father was also mixed with more realistic talk about being arrested and laying his life down—as if the whole thing was his choice! What a crazy guy! Like he believed the authorities could only arrest him with HIS permission. Emperor of the world, this one. Emperor wearing slave's clothes, washing feet! Someone needed to shake the lot of them and shout in their faces, "That's NOT how it works! It's Passover, guys!" God sure washed the feet of Pharaoh's army, right up to their foreheads! Promised land, guys! We're free.

Or you are, anyway. I'm still a slave. I always will be, I guess. How's anyone going to free me? I refilled the wine and put more bread on the table, then left the room just as their so-called leader took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them.

As I told the authorities. I didn't hear anything after that. They left, later, singing an old hymn. I cleaned up and that was that. I only heard of the arrest a few days later. And then his death.

He didn't deserve that, you know. The stuff he talked about, his whole way of being and talking, well, you could see why so many people loved him. I don't know how it is that the authorities could hate him so. They say people came to him mute, and went away laughing and praising; came to him lame and went away dancing. And even his death didn't stop that, somehow. I mean here it is, only a couple of days after that fateful supper, and they're all huddled upstairs with the doors locked—all of them except the level-headed one. And yet, the sounds coming from up there! Shouts of surprise a moment ago, and now it sounds like they're laughing. Joy. Just like little children. Amen.

**Hymn of the Evening:** Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace

O soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There's light for a look at the Savior  
And life more abundant and free

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace

**Prayers** (O Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, **help us to give our all to you.**)

On this night when you were betrayed, you did not shy away from becoming a servant to your disciples, cleansing their feet. Help us to never shy away from serving you and others with humble acts of love. O Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, **help us to give our all to you.**

In the holy meal on this night, you first gave your body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. As we partake of this sacrament this night and at other times when it is offered, let us approach your table of mercy repentant and reverent toward you for the all-surpassing gifts of forgiveness and renewal found in these sacred elements. Nourish us in this meal this night that we might be strengthened to serve you more in response to restoring us to new life. O Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, **help us to give our all to you.**

On the cross you gave your very life for us, that we might live with you forever in heaven. Let our remembrance of your crucifixion this week fill us with deep awe and gratitude for your ul-



timate sacrifice for us and where you made your everlasting commitment to us known. O Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, **help us to give our all to you.**

Grant joy within our hearts as we serve those around us. Help us to be gladdened by the smiles we see on the faces of those we served. May you lift our spirits when we become weary in doing good in response to your love. Let our happiness in you be contagious, that your good news of salvation might spread, bringing true joy and peace to all the world. O Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, **help us to give our all to you.**

We pray for those who are in the midst of sadness now because of illness, injury or the death of a loved one. Grant recovery to the sick and the hurting, and comfort to the grieving, especially Margie and Sonja, Roger and Terry, Jeff and Kirk, Evonne and Marlis, Byron and those that we now name silently in our hearts..... Help them and all of us feel your presence with love and healing. O Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, **help us to give our all to you.**

All these petitions we offer in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who did the will of God and lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Meal**

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

## **Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer**

*Our father who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen*

## **Blessing**

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the +Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

## **Closing Hymn – Go to Dark Gethsemane**

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
ye that feel the tempter's power;  
your Redeemer's conflict see,  
watch with him one bitter hour.  
Turn not from his griefs away;  
learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

See him at the judgment hall,  
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;  
O the wormwood and the gall!  
O the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;  
learn of Christ to bear the cross.

Calvary's mournful mountain climb;  
there, adoring at his feet,  
mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry;  
learn of Jesus Christ to die.

### **Palms/Lilly Donations:**

In honor of our Confirmation students – Macie, Autumn and Reed by Pastor Michele  
In memory of Alden & Shirley Rensvold, Art & Cora Rensvold and Carol Rensvold by Diane Rensvold.  
In memory of Margaret (Dawn's mother) by Dawn, Scott, Hunter and Reed Volden  
In memory of LeRoy & Dorothy Dosland and Ted & Naomi Pachi by Margaret and Mardy Dosland  
In memory of Art & Franky Cleveland by the Clevelands  
In memory of Terry Gjervold by Sandy and Wayne Gjervold  
In memory of Kathy Pingree by Don Pingree

### **Mark your calendars:**

- Good Friday – Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7PM at Nora
- Easter Service – Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9AM at Kirkebo

All Services will be in-person (practicing safety guidelines) and live streamed on Facebook Live

*An Adaptation of Thy Will Be Done by Justin Rossow. © 2018 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com).*



The Last Supper

# Holy Thursday Word Search

V Y U Q D Z E P R E T S A M B L N  
H U N O H V Y D X W H W A D S X C  
F V O A M X A R L H R T W A E H P  
J L M C E E B B Z W I N E R L E O  
B F G E R L K D G M F V V E P R N  
V A T B Y S C Y A A O A H B I X M  
D D W F A F A V R E T E P M C F F  
L I E D W R G U E T A E Y E S U A  
T E U A T W P W K T Z G I M I J Z  
T J T E O Q Y E A E D S V E D P Z  
E E B L T E V M T W P U S R R A T  
R B L V Q R N L K D F E R N E S M  
S O Y W E Q R X P V R B I J H S U  
F E B S I U X H I V Q R A F C O H  
V G N O K O Q R A M X R H E A V I  
C N A Y D T H N O W X V L M E E G  
R A Q A R Y T Z H D E V O L T R C

remember	eat	take	serve
servant	blood	body	wine
bread	water	peter	master
teacher	feet	judas	passover
disciples	clean	loved	follow
betray	-		

