



*Maundy Thursday*  
*March 28, 2024*

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**Prelude:**

**Welcome**

**Call To Worship<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: We regularly say: “We proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”  
In these last days, in these latter days,  
In these final days, in these very late days,

**All: We draw closer to your promised “until.”**  
**We draw closer in fear, in hope**  
**in gladness, in dread.**

Leader: So we do proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes

**All: until he comes in peace against all our violence,**

Leader: until he comes in generosity midst all our parsimony,

**All: until he comes in food midst all our hunger**

Leader: We are your faithful hoppers, distracted by despair,

**All: but hoping,**

Leader: distracted by affluence

**All: but hoping,**

Leader: distracted by sophistication

**All: but hoping.**

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<sup>1</sup> Inspired by Walter Brueggemann’s “In these very late days” from *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*, (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2003), 169.

Leader: Come soon, come Lord Jesus, come soon

**All: While we face afresh your death.**

Leader: Until you come soon and again,

**All: again and soon, we proclaim, we hope. Amen.**

**Hymn: #272 *Go to Dark Gethsemane***

**Scripture Reading: John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

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. And during supper 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!' 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, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

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.

Jesus said, '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.'

## Reflection on the Scripture

Hymn: #284 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

### Prayer of Confession for An Evening of Shadows

Leader: You call us to live your life, follow where you have trod,  
be your presence in these streets,

**All: show compassion to the poor,  
support the weak,**

Leader: embrace the outcast,  
bring lives into your kingdom.

**All: Yet our hearts are troubled,  
we are fearful of the task,  
deafened to your promise  
to be with us  
wherever we might go.**

Leader: Forgive our timidity,  
grant us peace for the journey,  
and strength for the day,

**All: that we might demonstrate our love  
in the life we live and share.**

Leader: You call us to love those whom you would love,  
and give us the words to say.  
You call us to bring wholeness to lives that are broken,  
and give us the words to say.  
You call us to bring comfort to those who are grieving,  
and give us the words to say.  
You call us to bring good news to those who are seeking,  
and give us the words to say.  
Your word, living water in desert sands.  
Your word, blossoming in parched earth.  
Your word, bearing fruit wherever it is sown.  
Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us hear God's word once again

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

## **Come to the Table<sup>2</sup>**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

**Give us this night, O divine storyteller,  
precisely what we need,  
so that we're nourished  
and encouraged into the very places  
where we've been called to live, speak, and breathe  
with the fire of love and the water of grace;  
through Jesus Christ, the risen one, who taught us to pray,**

### **Let us recite the Lord's Prayer together:**

**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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for  
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### **Hymn: #275 *An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare***

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<sup>2</sup> Inspired by Maren Tirabassi's "Come to the Table — Holy Communion for a Lenten Sunday or Maundy Thursday," Gifts in Open Hands Blog, posted March 27, 2017, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2017/03/27/great-prayer-of-thanksgiving-holy-communion-for-a-lenten-sunday-or-maundy-thursday/> (accessed March 10, 2023).

### **Maundy Thursday Household Prayer: Morning<sup>3</sup>**

Each day, O Lord, I wash my feet, my hands, and head almost without thinking. It is a routine of the morning, ordinary, even perfunctory. This morning, make me newly aware of the water that pours out and over, spilling in abundance, washing me clean. As I go through this day, place before me an opportunity to serve someone—family member, friend, neighbor, or stranger. Help me bend to another's need without seeking gain or advantage. And, if someone should offer to serve me in some way, give me a heart open and vulnerable enough to receive what is offered in kindness, all for love's sake, which is for your sake. Amen.

### **Maundy Thursday Household Prayer: Evening**

God of love, thank you for knowing us fully and loving us to the end. On this night of the Christian year especially, I am grateful to be part of the community of Jesus' disciples. Thank you for all those who handed the faith on to me, and those who continue to teach me by example what it means to serve you and to serve one another. Thank you for making a place for me at your table, even though I fall short of what you have called me to be and to do. In evening's rest, I remember that, for Jesus, no rest would come this night or tomorrow. Yet, in forgiveness and love, he is with us always: the light shining in the darkness. Amen.

### **Good Friday Household Prayer: Morning**

In you, O God, our ancestors trusted; they cried to you, and you delivered them. Hear my cry this day and deliver me from evil, until I rise to meet you on the day of resurrection. Amen.

### **Good Friday Household Prayer: Evening**

On you, O God, I was cast from birth; since my mother bore me you have been my God. Keep me safe this night and hold me at your breast, until I rise to meet you on the day of resurrection. Amen.

### **Notes on This Evening's Worship Service**

There is no Benediction or Postlude because the events of this night do not conclude until the Easter celebration of resurrection. Therefore, tonight ends in a way that is intentionally unresolved, indicating that there is more to come.

Tonight's service continues with the Vigil on Good Friday in the Brookline sanctuary from 3:00 to 9:00pm. Easter Sunrise Services are at 6:15am on Musket Mountain at the Andres Institute of Art in Brookline or at Wally Brown's home 421 Meetinghouse Hill Road at 6:00am. Then both Brookline and Mason will celebrate Easter Morning Worship in their own churches at 10:00am.

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<sup>3</sup> The Morning & Evening Prayer and Question for Reflection are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014.