



Daily Prayer for Maundy Thursday

Adopted from *The Lutheran Service Book* (p. 294)

This brief service is the first part of one greater service that spans today, Good Friday and Easter. Tonight's part is intended as a simple form of daily prayer for individuals and families, and in other settings. When more than one person is present, the versicles and responses may be spoken responsively, with one person reading the words in regular type and the others responding with the words in bold type. Prayers that are in bold type are to be prayed by all.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Opening Versicles

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

To herald Your love in the morning,
Your truth at the close of the day.



Psalms 92:1-2

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was
buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended
into heaven And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He will
come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints;
The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

*You may now play tonight's worship video, located under the "Worship Resources" tab
at www.bethanycr.org and then continue with the Nunc Dimittis.*

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

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. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ 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, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ 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." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² 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?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them...

...Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Sermon – ✠ *Greatness in the Kingdom* ✠



Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

Luke 2:29-32

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Prayers of the Day

On this night, Jesus gave His Church a new commandment to love one another as He has loved us, and then He washed His disciples' feet before He offered Himself on the cross in perfect love. Therefore, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Lord, You hold the world in Your hands, so give all nations good and honest leaders who govern according to Your commands. Bestow peace in every land so that Your Gospel has free course. Grant wisdom and integrity to our president, governor, congress, and all who make, administer, and judge our laws so that they promote justice, defend the weak, reward virtue, and punish evil. Guard and protect our medical workers and all who serve in law enforcement and the armed forces and bless their families with Your peace. Lord, in Your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

Holy Lord, Your Son touched those who were ill and healed them. Be merciful to all those who suffer from all forms of physical and mental illness, especially that which has been brought about by the coronavirus. But we also ask that you bless those who are addicted, suffering, or near death in any way, and grant them healing according to Your good and gracious will. Help them to bear their affliction with patience knowing that You will fully restore them in both body and soul, if not in this life, then certainly when You make all things new on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer



Lord Jesus, remember us in Your Kingdom this night and teach us to pray...

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 and ever. Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1



Maundy Thursday Sermon: † *Greatness in the Kingdom* †

Grace, mercy, and Peace to you from God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Most of us have gained a whole new understanding of washing over the last few weeks. With the spread of the coronavirus around the world it seems that we have been washing or disinfecting everything in sight. But the reason that Jesus washed His disciples' feet in our Gospel reading for this Maundy Thursday, didn't have anything to do with the typical hygiene that we all might be thinking of right now. Rather, Jesus washing the feet of Peter and the rest of the disciples was to teach them about His washing away of sin and by doing that, also showing them how to be truly great by loving one another with humble service.

Much like today, the world back then was obsessed with status. They didn't worry about things like "followers" or "likes" online, but rather things like your family's rank and class, or the kind of clothes you would wear, or the positions in society you held. In fact, all of this seemed to be so important that St. Luke tells us in his Gospel that the disciples were arguing about who would be the greatest on this very night that Jesus would be betrayed (Luke 22:24ff). So, Jesus will show them what greatness really looks like and in doing so will show them His love.

When it comes to rank and position in society, or even the universe, no one outranks Jesus. He is, according to Philippians 2, the one to whom every knee in heaven, or earth, or under the earth should bow. Jesus knew this. He knew that His greatness was unchallenged and always will be. And yet to show what greatness looks like, Jesus does something shocking. He got up from supper and took off His outer garment. Wrapping a towel around His waist, He took on the appearance or the uniform, if you will, of a slave. Then pouring water into a basin, He began to do what only a slave would do – wash someone's feet. This was a degrading task. There were examples of students or disciples washing their masters' feet as a sign of extreme devotion. But never, the other way around. Never, except for here. Never, except for the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings.

It seems that most of the disciples sat there during this foot washing in stunned silence. But no surprise, Peter speaks up when Jesus comes to him. Peter asks Him, "*Lord, do You wash my feet?*" Jesus understood Peter's confusion. After all, how could he possibly know that this humble act of service was foreshadowing the great love Jesus would show and the great humiliation Jesus would endure the next day on the cross? Peter couldn't understand that now, so Jesus told him that everything would become clear in time, but for now, Peter would simply need to trust Him. However, it seems that Peter was too upset to let it go at that. So, Peter exclaims to Jesus, "*You shall never wash my feet.*" And in response Jesus begins to move the conversation away from simple foot washing, to the washing away of sin – the reason why Jesus has come to us a humble servant.

Jesus says, "*If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.*" The humble act of washing the disciples' feet was done to show that true greatness in the Kingdom of God only comes about through loving service to others. But that foot washing was only a foreshadowing of the greatest act of loving service the world has ever known. That took place the very next day, when Jesus, out of His great love for all people, humbled Himself to death on a cross. And while this act of loving and humble service was done for everyone, if Peter, or you, or anyone doesn't receive this service through faith, then there is nothing that Jesus can do. If Jesus doesn't clean us, if He doesn't take away our sin through His death and resurrection, then we have

nothing, and certainly not salvation or forgiveness. But with faith, we are forgiven and made clean through the cross and empty tomb. And all of this was done because we are loved.

As we continue to clean and disinfect things during this coronavirus outbreak, let us remember to do this not only for our own health, but also for the health of others. Even if we're not worried about getting sick, keep your distance and wash your hands so that others won't become ill. This is the type of self-sacrificing and humble love that Jesus is talking about. For Christ did not die on the cross so that He could have His sins washed away. He died on the cross to wash away your sin, and my sin, and the sins of the rest of the world. He didn't have to die for Himself, but He died for us, showing His amazing love for all people.

And now, Jesus gives His disciples a new commandment, or *mandate*, - to love one another as He has loved us. Like Peter on the night when Jesus was betrayed, we may not understand everything that God is doing. But we do know that we can stop arguing about who is the greatest and love as Jesus loved us. Trusting God as Jesus wanted Peter to do, we can serve one another with humility, as the King of Creation did the work of slave when He washed the disciples feet. Whether you are at work, or school, or in your community or in your family – do the work that needs to be done, not thinking that you are greater than anyone else or that any act of service is beneath you. (Everything was beneath Jesus!) Yet look what He did for you, because He loves you! Now go and love others - even those who frustrate you, have wronged you, or hurt you, in the same way. Seeing this love is not only how the world will know we belong to Christ. It is a natural result of our faith and trust in Him and what will truly make us great in His Kingdom. Amen.