



DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN & ORKNEY

FROM ASHES TO FIRE: A JOURNEY FROM LENT TO PENTECOST

Maundy Thursday - 17th April 2025

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."

"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."

To Pray

Almighty God, who, in your tender love for the human race, sent your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his passion, and also, be made partakers of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

To Reflect

A summary of the while Gospel passage for Maundy Thursday is we see Jesus performing the hospitable act of friendship where an extraordinary master takes the place of servant to his own servants.

The act of foot washing is both a prophetic and a symbolic act. We have the King born to serve and die for the love of humanity on his knees doing the job of a lowly servant. The social structures of the time turned literally on their head as the world was about to be turned upside down for good.

The Gospel of John portion for this day does not mention the institution of Holy Communion (the Eucharist, the Last Supper). Whilst Matthew 26, Mark 14, and Luke 22 contain narratives of the institution (where the words used in Eucharistic Prayers are drawn from).

1. What do you think the disciples thought was going on when Jesus washed their feet?

2. What does the new commandment mean to you – in how you live, pray and serve?



To Listen

(these can be found at <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1rWKLwqgJD1kTr2pPwAUrP?si=87ae72af060e4b65>)

- *Ubi Caritas (where charity and love prevail)* is one of the antiphons that has been used historically during foot washing on Maundy Thursday. There are many versions including those by *Maurice Duruflé, Ola Gjeilo, Paul Mealor, and Roxanna Panufnik*
- Music focussing on the Lamb of God and Communion includes *Behold the Lamb* by Keith and Kristyn Getty, *Eat this Bread (Taizé Chant)* and *Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands* by Greg Kay.
- Reflecting on the Garden of Gethsamane music includes the Taizé chant *Stay with Me and In the Garden (Gethsamane)* by Susan Goforth and David Hill.
- *Meekness and Majesty* by Graham Kendrick, *Verily, Verily I say unto you* by Henry Purcell and *Love Bade Me Welcome* (words by George Herbery, music by Ralph Vaughan Williams) all pick up on Maundy Thursday themes.

Maundy Thursday by Malcolm Guite

Here is the source of every sacrament,
The all-transforming presence of the Lord,
Replenishing our every element
Remaking us in his creative Word.
For here the earth herself gives bread and wine,
The air delights to bear his Spirit's speech,
The fire dances where the candles shine,
The waters cleanse us with His gentle touch.
And here He shows the full extent of love
To us whose love is always incomplete,
In vain we search the heavens high above,
The God of love is kneeling at our feet.
Though we betray Him, though it is the night.
He meets us here and loves us into light.





Tintoretto (1548/9) The Washing of the Feet (oil on canvas) Museo del Prado



Francisco Zúbarán (1638), Lamb (painting) Museo del Prado