

## Holy Week: (Maundy) Thursday

(For a full account of the events of this day, see [Matthew 26:17–75](#), [Mark 14:12–72](#), [Luke 22:7–71](#), [John 13:1–18:27](#).)

The word “maundy” comes from a Latin word that means “commandment” and it refers to the commandment Jesus gave his disciples while he washed their feet: “A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:34-35). How might we love others as Christ loved us? Well, Jesus will give them an even greater example than washing their feet – sacrificial death on the cross. Jesus points to this with the Passover meal they are about to eat.

As they begin to eat, Jesus announces one of them is about to betray him. Each wonder if he means them. Then he dispatches Judas to do what he intends. During this last supper, Jesus sets apart the Passover bread and cup and reassigns—or better, perfects—their meaning. The bread is his body. The cup, his blood. This meal will no longer remind them of God’s deliverance primarily from the external tyranny of Pharaoh, but from the internal tyranny of their own guilt and sin against God.

Jesus prays for his friends and those who will come to know him through them—that his Father would make them one ([John 17](#)). Then Jesus and his friends leave for the Mount of Olives to pray ([Mark 14:33](#)). But he isn’t there only to pray. He is also there to wait. Soon a line of torches makes their way toward him in the darkness. This is what he has been waiting for.

Song: Behold the Lamb-[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlgd\\_uT3mmM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlgd_uT3mmM)

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,  
Slain for us – and we remember  
The promise made that all who come in faith  
Find forgiveness at the cross.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of peace  
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
Torn for you – eat and remember  
The wounds that heal,  
The death that brings us life  
Paid the price to make us one.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of love  
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,  
Shed for you – drink and remember  
He drained death’s cup that all may enter in  
To receive the life of God.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of grace  
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise  
To respond, – and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ  
As His body here on earth.  
As we share in His suffering  
We proclaim Christ will come again!  
And we’ll join in the feast of heaven  
Around the table of the King

## For the Kids

### JOHN 13:3-17 - WASHING HIS DISCIPLES' FEET

Jesus knew that the Father had put him in complete charge of everything, that he came from God and was on his way back to God. So he got up from the supper table, set aside his robe, and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with his apron. When he got to Simon Peter, Peter said, “Master, *you wash my feet?*”

7 Jesus answered, “You don’t understand now what I’m doing, but it will be clear enough to you later.”

8 Peter persisted, “You’re not going to wash my feet—ever!”

Jesus said, “If I don’t wash you, you can’t be part of what I’m doing.”

9 “Master!” said Peter. “Not only my feet, then. Wash my hands! Wash my head!”

10–12 Jesus said, “If you’ve had a bath in the morning, you only need your feet washed now and you’re clean from head to toe. My concern, you understand, is holiness, not hygiene. So now you’re clean. But not every one of you.” (He knew who was betraying him. That’s why he said, “Not every one of you.”) After he had finished washing their feet, he took his robe, put it back on, and went back to his place at the table.

12–17 Then he said, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Master,’ and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other’s feet. I’ve laid down a pattern for you. What I’ve done, you do. I’m only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn’t give orders to the employer. If you understand what I’m telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life.

<p>BibleWise</p>  <p>Jesus washing his disciples' feet</p> <p>Copyright © 2006, BibleWise. All Rights Reserved. Drawing by Jennifer Chapin.</p>	<p>Imagine how the water would feel on your tired feet.</p> <p>What would it be like to have someone so important serve you by washing your smelly, dirty feet?</p> <p>Why do you think Jesus told the disciples to wash one another’s feet?</p> <p>How do you serve others?</p>
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