

## **Maundy Thursday**

### **SD Synod, Holy Week Task Force**

#### **Faith Formation** *(home)*

##### **Foot Washing Ritual**

Supplies: towel, bowl, warm water, chair

Read John 13:1-17. Take turns washing one another's feet. Fill a large bowl with warm water and place it on the floor in front of a chair. Have one person sit in the chair and place their feet in the water. The person who is doing the washing will kneel on the other side of the bowl and will carefully wash their family member's feet. After the washing is done, the washer will then dry the feet with the towel. Move through the ritual silently, taking turns until all have been washed and done the washing. After, the footwashing litany and prayer can be used (found in worship pieces). Then, explore how the ritual went with some conversation questions.

##### ***Conversation questions:***

- What is the purpose of washing another's feet?
- How did it feel to have your feet washed?
- How did it feel to wash someone else's feet?
- What might Jesus have been thinking as he washed his disciples' feet?
- What might the disciples have been thinking as their feet were washed?
- What are some ways to serve others, and show kindness and love, other than foot washing?

##### **Last Supper Ritual**

*Options:*

1. **Dinner party.** After preparing a favorite meal with your family (it can be fancy, simple, fresh, frozen, ordered in - there are no rules!), sit, give thanks for the food, and eat. Enjoy conversation with one another, free of distractions. When dinner is finished, stay seated at the table and read Matthew 26:17-30. Use the Table Talk questions to guide discussion. To end, pray together the Lord's Prayer, and help with clean up!  
*Prep ideas:* Work on a menu together. What does the meal look like if each family member chooses their favorite thing? Create and color place-cards and placements for the table for those who are there and even for those who are not. Light candles for the table.
2. **Virtual dinner party.** Invite loved ones near and far to join you for a virtual dinner party. Contact them early to set a time for dinner, and to choose a platform: Facetime, Zoom, Snapchat, Facebook video chat, Skype, phone call. Each household prepares their own meal, and then come together. Read Matthew 26:17-20, give thanks for the food, eat,

and catch up! Enjoy conversation with each other, or use Table Talk questions to guide discussion. To end, pray the Lord's Prayer together.

*Later:* send a card or letter of thanks to your dinner guests!

3. **Share a recipe & prayer.** Choose a treasured recipe (perhaps your family's Easter favorites?) to share with a friend. Send the recipe electronically or in the mail, and include the Last Supper scripture and a prayer. Ask for a recipe or two from others and make this an exchange! When we are welcome to gather in person again, set up a time to have dinner with those you shared with and received recipes from.
4. **Maundy Thursday delivery.** Taking into consideration most up to date COVID-19 precautions, prepare and deliver a meal and prayer to someone.

**Table Talk** from [www.buildfaith.org](https://buildfaith.org/discussion-prompts-intergenerational-groups/) (<https://buildfaith.org/discussion-prompts-intergenerational-groups/>)

- If you could describe your ideal day, what would it be like?
- If you could take lessons in anything, what would you learn?
- If you could have dinner with one person, past or present, whom would you choose?
- If your house caught fire and, after all people and pets were safe, you had the chance to save one item, what would you grab?
- When during the day do you feel closest to God? Why?
- If you had \$100,000 to spend on others, how would you use it?
- Can you think of a time when you helped someone? How did you feel?
- What is one of your favorite hymns or worship songs? Why?
- What is one of your favorite Bible passages or Bible stories? Why?
- Have you ever given something up for Lent? How did it go?
- What are the qualities of a really good friend?
- What is one thing you wish you knew how to cook?

### **Prayer Stations**

Set up a few prayer stations in your home by marking certain areas for prayer with candles, a blanket/pillow/chair to sit on, or other items. When the stations are ready, spend a few minutes at each one. Station ideas: prayers for loved ones, creation, the world, healing, the church, thanksgiving.

*Provide pre-written prayers for folks, or a list of activities for little hands at each station, or meditations to contemplate.*

## **Social Media Engagement**

### **Serving Others**

Jesus washed his neighbors' feet - what can you do for your neighbor? Through Facebook/church app/website, encourage members to think of creative ways of serving others from a distance! Postcards, chalk messages, coloring pictures for folks in care centers, digital chats, writing letters, making a donation, ordering food from a small business are a few ideas. Ask them to share photos or a video of themselves engaging in these acts of kindness.

### **Prayer Stations**

Reach out to members of the congregation and have them record a prayer video to be used on your church's preferred platform. The prayer video should be short (about 1 minute) and include an introduction of the pray-er, what you're praying for, and then the prayer. Ideas for prayer can be broad or specific. Prayers can come from a resource (make sure it's cited!) or can be written or off-the-cuff.

How often? It's up to you! You could have one recorded prayer a day for each day in Holy Week, or three prayers on just Maundy Thursday, or a day of prayer with a prayer video posted each hour. (On Facebook, you can schedule posts ahead of time.) Invite interaction with the videos by asking for prayer requests.

## **Worship Pieces** *(leadership-led or adapted for home use)*

### **Confession & Forgiveness**

#### **CONFESSION**

My sisters and brothers,  
Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant.

*A brief silence for individual confession.*

Most merciful God,  
**we your Church confess**  
**that often our spirit has not been that of Christ.**  
**Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us,**  
**where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips**  
**and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him,**  
**forgive us, we pray;**  
**and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### **FORGIVENESS**

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.  
But Christ suffered and died for us,  
    was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us,  
    and continues to intercede for us.  
Believe the good news:  
In the name of +Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.  
Help us to commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service. Lord, hear us,  
    **and humble us.**

On this night, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one. We pray for the unity of your Church, that  
all may see one another as siblings in Christ. Lord, hear us,  
    **and unite us.**

On this night, Jesus commanded them to love, but suffered rejection himself. We pray for the  
rejected and unloved, that they may find belonging in you and your church. Lord, hear us,  
    **and fill us with your love.**

On this night, Jesus prayed for those who were to believe through their ministry.  
We pray for the mission of your Church, that we all may be bearers of your good news for all  
people. Lord, hear us  
    **and renew our passion to share the Gospel.**

We lift these prayers to you, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.  
    **Amen.**

### **Stripping of the Altar**

Psalm 22, read responsively

### **Footwashing Litany**

(inspired by John 13: 1-20)

O Prince of Peace, O Friend of Sinners,  
we praise you and give you thanks,  
because you laid aside your power as a garment  
and took upon yourself the form of a slave.

**You became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.**

**You allowed yourself to be born to die in our place,  
You allowed your own feet to be anointed for death.  
You allowed a sinner to wash your feet with her tears.  
For God chose what is low and despised in the world  
to bring to nothing things that are.  
Therefore, with the woman who gave you birth,  
with the woman who anointed you for death,  
with the woman who worshiped you with her tears,  
and with all our fellow sinners  
who have loved and served you from that time till now,  
we praise you, Lord Jesus.**

O Eternal Father, blessed is our brother Jesus,  
who on that night before Passover,  
rose from the Supper, laid aside his garments  
took a towel and poured water,  
and washed his disciples' feet, saying to them:  
"If I, your Lord and Teacher,  
have washed your feet,  
you also ought to wash one another's feet.  
If you know these things,  
blessed are you if you do them."

**Come now, mighty Spirit of God,  
wash us and make us one body in Christ,  
that, as we are bound together  
in this act of love,  
we may no longer be in bondage  
to the principalities and powers that enslave creation,  
but may know your liberating peace  
such as the world cannot give. Amen.**

— from [A Footwashing Liturgy](#) by Reggie M. Kidd.

### **Footwashing Prayer**

Merciful Savior,  
We have traveled this long, dusty Lenten journey.  
Our feet are tired, dirty, aching, and calloused.  
You have shown us Your love  
by becoming a humble servant.  
Humble us when we try to travel without You.  
**As Christ has washed us,  
so let us wash one another.**

Humble us when we believe some work is below us.

**As Christ has washed us,  
so let us wash one another.**

Humble us when we are too proud  
to accept help, or care, or love.

**As Christ has washed us,  
so let us wash one another.**

Humble us when we do not fully receive  
the gift of Your amazing and bountiful grace.

**As Christ has washed us,  
so let us wash one another. Amen.**

-By Karen Turner, and posted on the **Lifeway** website.

[http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF\\_PDF\\_LW\\_MaundyThursday.pdf](http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_PDF_LW_MaundyThursday.pdf)

### **Prayers of Intercession** (based on John 17)

Loving, listening God,  
ever-attentive to the voices of those in need,  
we call on your name so that we might live.  
Now hear our prayer:

For the church that bears Christ's name,  
**that the world may know we are his disciples  
by the love that we have for one another.**

For leaders of nations and all persons in positions of authority,  
**that their lives may be marked by Christ-like service and love.**

For all who are oppressed and living in captivity,  
**that they may escape from evil and death  
to find the land of freedom you have promised.**

For those who are hungry and thirsty this day  
and for those who have too much,  
**that we may learn to share your generous gifts, O God.**

For those who are dealing with loss or facing death,  
**that the presence of Christ may bless and keep them.**

Answer us in the day of trouble, O God,  
so that we may lift up the cup of salvation  
in the presence of your people,

giving thanks for all your goodness to us;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

— posted on the *Worship Resources for Maundy Thursday* page of the **Presbyterian Church USA**. <https://www.pcusa.org/>

Personal Prayer:

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to our *sister/brother/sibling* \_\_\_\_\_ an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In *her/his/their* pain, weariness, and anxiety, surround *her/him* with your care, protect *her/him/their* by your loving might, and grant to *her/him/their* once again the gifts of health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

## **Other Resources & Videos:**

SD Synod, Sacraments in a time of emergency:

<https://sdsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/sacraments-in-a-time-of-emergency.pdf>

Luther Seminary, Holy Week webinar and ideas: <https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/faithful-adaptation-holy-week/>

Washing of feet, “Welcome Church”, Philadelphia, PA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Be3bLphdyo>