

VIA CHURCH LETHBRIDGE: MAUNDY THURSDAY HOME LITURGY

The Paschal mystery—the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ—is at the heart of the Christian Gospel. The evening of Maundy Thursday begins the Triduum (the sacred three days). This service, together with Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and the Great Vigil of Easter, form a single liturgy; thus, the final blessing and dismissal is reserved for the conclusion of the Great Vigil.

Maundy Thursday receives its name from the *mandatum* (commandment) given by our Lord: “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” (John 13:34). At the Last Supper, Jesus washed his disciples’ feet and commanded them to love and serve one another as he had done. This day commemorates the Lord’s example of servant ministry, the institution of the Eucharist, the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the betrayal leading to the crucifixion.

We recommend you have bowl of warm water and a towel ready before beginning the liturgy.

Leader: Blessed be our God.

People: **Now and for ever. Amen.**

Leader:

This is the night that Christ the Son of Man gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

This is the night that Christ our Lord and Master took a towel and washed the disciples’ feet, calling us to love one another as he has loved us.

This is the night that Christ our God gave us this holy feast, that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim his perfect sacrifice.

This is the night that Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

THE COLLECT

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose most dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it in thankful remembrance of Jesus Christ our Savior, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE SERMON

In place of a sermon, we are recommending that as a family you watched Andrew Legg's dramatized reading of John 13:1-15 for Maundy Thursday. This will be available on our Facebook page, or at www.viachurch.ca under sermons, "Holy Week Readings."

THE FOOT WASHING

Leader:

Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the kingdom of God come not by worldly power and authority, but by such lowly service.

Therefore, I invite you who share in the royal priesthood of Christ to come forward, that we may recall whose servants we are by following the example of our Master. Come now remembering his admonition that what will be done for you is also to be done by you to others. Engrave on your hearts and mirror in your actions Jesus' words: "A servant is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

The Lord Jesus, rising from supper, laid aside his outer garments, took a towel, and washed his disciples' feet. Then he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." (John 13:12, 14)

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. (John 13:34)