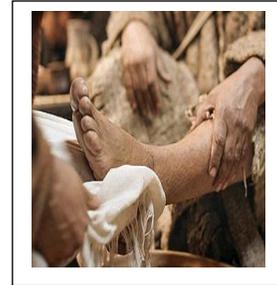


Coop's Scoops, Thursday in
Holy Week, April 8, 2020
Maunday Thursday



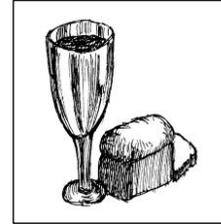
On Thursday, the second last day of His life, our Lord Jesus wanted to do one thing. He longed to eat the Passover with His friends. He wanted quality time with the family – His disciples – away from the crowds and the pressures and the clamoring for His attention. Sounds very much like what I would most want to do tonight. And my own family, and my church family, over for dinner and conversation. Well, we can't do that now. But we can Remember Him, as He first commanded at that Passover meal so long ago.

On that night, Jesus was not merely seeking the pleasure of the company of His disciples. He had a very full agenda. He wanted to show His disciples what servanthood was all about. He wants to prepare them for what will happen just hours have they eat. There will be violence. He will be betrayed and arrested by force. They will all desert Him. He wants to leave them with His last Last Will and Testament. The supper was the symbol. Tomorrow would bring the violent reality.

On that night so long ago Jesus was about to wash the feet of His disciples and for the first time GIVE them His Body and His Blood. Why? Well, let's put it in context. "Now before the Passover...Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father (John 13:1) Jesus' mind was not on roast lamb and potatoes. His mind was on His dying and His return to the Father. When He washed the feet of the disciples, it was not just so they would be more comfortable, it was so that they would have FOREVER the **image** of the meaning of His death. There was no limit to the depths to which love would go to save. He had come to save and to serve, and that is what they must carry on. "Do you know what I have just 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." (John 13: 12-15).

Jesus didn't just enjoy the bread and wine at the table, He fixed FOREVER in their minds the **image** of He, Himself, giving **Himself**, Body and Blood, for them and for the whole world.(Matthew 26: 26-29)

So that they would know always that they should pass Him along, literally, in the sharing of the Bread and the Wine as long as they lived and in every generation since. We don't just remember, we re-member...we pray that Jesus Himself is present (a member) in the Consecration of the Elements.



This example He left us to serve one another **as** (to the degree that, in the same way that) He served us, isn't some sort of sentimental, grit-your-teeth and get on with it advice, or some "anything goes so long as it is done in love" sort of thing. The example He left us is that we, like Him, should be so determined to help someone else out of the mud puddle, the cess pool of the sin which is contaminating their body, mind and soul **that we will willingly get in the puddle with them and get some dirt on ourselves** and wipe them clean (wash their feet) with a fresh application of the power of the Holy Spirit living in us...no limit, no exception. No matter what. Finally, we pray that they too will become one of the members of the Body of Christ so that we can share Bread and Wine with them, remembering Jesus, until He comes.

All of that brings us to this night. To plucking those images from whatever shelf we may store them on and bringing them to the forefront of our thinking and focus. See Him kneeling with the towel. Imagine the embarrassed faces of the disciples as they realized that one of them should have thought to do that. And imagine the joy and wonder and yes, confusion, of hearing from His lips that they themselves were still trusted to carry out His mission. They were to serve as He served. The mystery of the first "This is my Body, This is my Blood" would have been very deep indeed.

Dinner wasn't over after the meal was finished. Jesus taught His disciples everything they needed to know to survive when He was gone. Read chapters 14-16 and then He prayed for His disciples probably the most intimate, loving, preparatory prayers ever spoken.(Read John 17...He includes you and I in that prayer). I hope you can read them all of that tonight. It will bless you.

And then, Jesus and His disciples (minus Judas) left the building and went out to the Garden of Gethsemene. We will live through that tomorrow.

What a Wonderful Saviour is Jesus our Lord! Amen.

Introductory Liturgy and Collect for Maundy Thursday:

- This is the day that Christ the Lamb of God gave Himself into the hands of those who would slay Him
- This is the day that Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as He has done to us.
- This is the day that Christ gave us a Holy Feast, that we eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim His holy Sacrifice and be partakers of His resurrection, and at the last dy may reign with Him on high.

O God, your Son Jesus Christ has left us this meal of bread and wine, in which we share His body and His blood. May we who celebrate this sign of His great love show in our lives the fruits of His redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

That is all that I can say on this Holy Day. It is enough!

May the Peace of God which passess all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

