

A wooden cross is positioned diagonally on a dark, textured wooden surface. To the left of the cross, a green palm frond is visible. The text 'Mundy Thursday' is written in a white, cursive font with a purple shadow, positioned to the right of the cross.

Mundy Thursday



Maundy Thursday

Year A

Read About It

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 decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. 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 supper, 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 reclined again, 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, slaves 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.

Maundy - noun - from the Latin *mandatum* or *command* which refers to the instructions Jesus gave his Disciples at the Last Supper

Discuss



On the last day of Jesus' life, he has a meal with his Disciples and then he washes their feet. They were astonished by this. Usually servants washed feet. Jesus explains this is the new way of life - we are all here to serve one another. No one is above anyone else. From now on, go and serve.



Dig Deeper

What does service look like? Is it about volunteering or just simply being there for someone who needs a friend? Service is at the heart of our faith. But service doesn't have to be something huge. It can be simple

things that show you care about something or someone beyond yourself. Jesus wanted his Disciples to see that this new faith wasn't just about him, it was about them and the world all of which pointed to God's love for everyone.



Foot Washing

Jesus showed his Disciples how to serve by washing their feet. Feet were very unclean during this time. People didn't have shoes that covered their feet, they had sandals. People's

feet got very dirty as they walked everywhere they went. It was customary for a person to have their feet washed by a servant when they arrived at their own home or visiting someone. For Jesus, their teacher, leader, Rabbi, Messiah, Son of God, to get down on the ground and wash the feet of his followers was something major. He was making a great sacrifice. He was humbling himself.

Try It Out Have each person trace their foot on a piece of paper (with or without shoes). Have them write "I Am Who I Follow" on their paper somewhere. Have them fill their paper or footprint with the different people they admire. Have everyone share with the group a few of the names they listed and why.

This is the last thing Jesus does before he is arrested and put to death. Maundy Thursday is seen as a somber day. Although it hasn't been the focus of this lesson consider ending your gathering in a somber way, going out into the world in some way that acknowledges today is the day that Jesus died.