

## **Maundy Thursday Part 2 *The New Commandment***

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. -John 13:34-35

*Where charity and love are, there is God.*

*The Love of Christ has gathered us as one.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in him.  
Let us fear and love the living God  
And in purity of heart let us love one another*

*Where charity and love are, there is God.  
When therefore we are gathered together*

*Let us not be divided in spirit.  
Let bitter strife and discord cease between us;  
Let Christ our God be present in our midst.*

*Where charity and love are, there is God.*

*With all the blessed may we see for ever  
Thy face in glory, Jesus Christ our God.  
Joy that is infinite and undefiled  
For all the ages of eternity.*

-At the Feet Washing, Maundy Thursday, Western Rite  
The Oxford Book of Prayer, George Appleton, ed.



Art: Washing the Feet of Disciples, Duccio 1308-11

### **Reading from Scripture** John 13:1-35

#### **Meditation**

*John's account of the supper begins as Jesus removed his garments, pours water into a basin, and washes the feet of his disciples. This baptismal gesture signifies a passage, an entering, an initiation, a new beginning. Our journey arrives, like a pilgrimage, at its goal, and we must be washed for the solemn meal. We have arrived at another threshold, like the Jordan of John the Baptist. The water flows gleaming over our feet as we pass over into this new country. Here within this room the life and teaching of Jesus will pool to a fullness. "I have called you friends."*

-Bruno Barnhart 1931-2015

The Good Wine

Jesus gives a "New Commandment" - that is, "to love one another." What challenges do you face on the threshold of this life of loving? Who is hard for you love? What steps can you take to broaden your love in the face of this challenge? And here is some wisdom from Julian of Norwich: *If I look at myself I am nothing. But if I look at us all I am hopeful; for I see the unity of love among all my fellow-Christians. In this unity lies our salvation.*

**Prayers** Petitions, Intercessions, Thanksgivings

**Closing** Give me that love that thou desirest of me. Amen

Maundy Thursday Part 2 The New Commandment  
Gospel Text

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 put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. 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 the table, 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 returned to the table, 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, servants 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.

I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, 'The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me." After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

-John 13:1-35