



THE LAST SUPPER: RISKING THE LOSS OF FRIENDS”

Week Five of Lent

March 29 2020

Lighting the Fifth Lenten Candle

We light this fifth Lenten candle to shine a light on ourselves in the story of the passion of Jesus.

May this light illumine our path as we walk alongside Jesus and others who walked with him, that together we may experience expanded insight and transformation along the way.

Entering the Story Crossing the Threshold

We continue our journey through Lent as we step inside the story of saying goodbye to friends. We put ourselves in the picture of Holy Week so that we might take a closer look and let the ancient story open us to listen to one another and treasure each other – all equal and precious in the eyes of God.



Enter
Come enter the story
Enter the place you belong
Not just looking on
For this is *your* story
Enter the story

Jesus' words at the Last Supper were shocking to those in attendance. His words can seem familiar, even comforting to us because we hear these words every time, we have communion. But at their utterance, they were anything but "usual." This week we enter the scene of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples at the last meal he will share with them. Such action was enough to get a grasp of the shock that would have rippled through Jesus' friends. A "Lord" washing feet like a servant? Unbelievable! Breaking bread with the enemy? What?! But Jesus knew his end was near. And it was time for the disciples to get the message, even if it came in a shocking way: love one another as I have loved you—by serving, forgiving, freeing, communing—becoming one with—God.

Enter
Enter the passion
Enter the place we belong

Not just looking on
For this is *our* passion
Enter the passion
[tag] Enter the story...
Enter the passion...
Enter his passion.

Prayer of Confession

Sometimes we just aren't paying attention.
We can keep our heads in the sand
when we really need to attend to difficult situations,
or the needs of your people.
Forgive us, O God.
Help us to care for what's right in front of us.
God of Love you enter our story again and again.
May we have the courage to enter fully into the story
of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon and Entering the Passion of Jesus

Know this: Our lives contain continual opportunities
to be in loving service to friends and strangers.
You are forgiven and freed,
encouraged and loved
by a God who wants you to live fully.
Let us enter the passion of Christ,

Getting Perspective

Telling the Story

Holy Creator
We will dare to join the journey.
We will walk your loving way.
We will live your sacred story,
Through the things we do and say.
Amen.

Time with the Gospel

John 13:3-16
(Jesus washes the disciple's feet)

In today's story we find ourselves at another meal, sometimes called "The Last Supper" or "The Lord's Supper." This was the meal Jesus shared with his friends on the night before he died. Let's enter the story together.

Jesus knew the time was getting close when he would leave this world. He wanted to have one last meal with the disciples. Jesus loved his friends very much and wanted to make sure that not just their stomachs were full, but their hearts as well. So, he found a special way to show his love for them.

Jesus got up from the table and tied a towel around his waist. He filled a basin with water and got on his knees. Then Jesus began washing the feet of his disciples. But when Jesus came to Peter, Peter shook his head and said, "You will never wash my feet."

Jesus said, "You don't understand what I'm doing now, but you will later."

Peter said, "Well then also wash my hands and my head."

Jesus said, "It is enough to wash your feet. You are clean."

Then Jesus said to all of them, "Do you know what I have done for you?" The disciples were all ears. Jesus continued, "You call me teacher and Lord, and that is correct. If I, your Lord, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's." The disciples' eyes were filled with awe.

Jesus continued, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must love one another. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other." Jesus words had truly touched the disciples' hearts.

Thousands of churches around the world commemorate this part of the story on a special night called Maundy Thursday. "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum* meaning "commandment." It is based on Jesus' words we just heard, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must love one another." This passage is closely linked to Jesus' humble act of washing the disciples' feet—a surprising thing for a master to do for his disciples.

Prayer after Reading
Loving God,
Help us live your story,
By daring to celebrate Jesus
Wherever we are. Amen.

Dwelling in the Story - Tableau

(A kind of “midrash” based on *Washing the Feet* artwork)

Dramatist: My master’s banquet hall upstairs was booked for this night, and the time had arrived for this evening’s group to come for the banquet. All was prepared according to their wishes, and I was ready with the water and basin as I always am. Years ago, my parents had given me to the owner as collateral for the debt they owed him. But things did not go well for them, and the debt had never been paid. And so, I work to pay it off. Roman law says that someday I could be a freed person, but I will never again have the full rights in society like those who have never been slaves. It is a mark for life. I keep my head down and do what the master asks because legally he has the right to punish, abuse, and humiliate me. I’ve witnessed it happen to others. Right now, I have no rights.

So, there I was with the bowl, just waiting for the go-ahead to start. It would be the honored guest first, of course, and I knew which one that was by where he was seated. This was all protocol; everyone has a place according to status. When he showed up, I recognized him and remembered the stories I had been hearing about this teacher. He was saying things that were really upsetting those invested in this system of status... saying things like “the last shall be first.” My friend who serves in the kitchen had to tell me to stop staring. I just couldn’t imagine a world like he described.

And then he came right up to me and took the basin of water from my hands. He took my servant’s towel and wrapped it around his own waist and knelt, telling Peter to come sit down. This was going to be no ordinary night. And I realized my life, my view of myself and my station in life, was never going to be the same.

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Reflection: *In Service of Love*

You Tube link: [In the Service of Love](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uA8dPstEfZM&feature=youtu.be)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uA8dPstEfZM&feature=youtu.be>

Hymn

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rh_3ic6xX0

Zooming In

The Body of Christ Prays

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTQkRTPuB1A>

Love us into Fullness vs. 1 & 3 MV #81

Sung entrance into prayer

**Love us into fullness, touch us with your grace;
Jesus, in your mercy, draw us to your face.**

**Love us into fullness, and we will be strong;
Jesus, walk beside us, fill our hearts with song.**

A Prayer adapted from Bishop Larry Duffy

God of Love, we the people of St. David's United turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us now and in every moment of our lives. We are people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.

Generous and Gracious God, fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old; that we may look after each other in these challenging times, especially those among us who are vulnerable. May Jesus' example of serving, forgiving, freeing, and loving, inspire us to do the same. May calm, gentleness, and wisdom ease our fears, anxiety, and grief.

Healing God, may those who are sick with the Coronavirus find healing. Be with their family and friends. We pray the members of our congregation and others who are isolated and lonely, that they may know your love through our endeavors to connect with them. We know you are with us in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

God of Comfort, we pray for all people who have lost a loved one in these times and pray for the vulnerable, elderly, and homeless.

God of Strength and Determination, strengthen those who serve us with such love and graciousness in the medical profession and in all healthcare facilities. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of people. We ask you to bless them, support them and guide them with your abundant goodness.

God of Wisdom, may your wisdom guide the leaders in healthcare and governance; enabling them to make the right decisions for the wellbeing of people.

O God of Creation and God of life, we, your people here at St. David's, seek your protection and love. May peace be with us and enfold us today, tomorrow and during the time ahead. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Entering the World's Story

Hymn

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcL9S5a3weU>

Benediction

We put a frame around a bit of life
sectioned off a scene,
looked long into a face,
to see what we could see,
to know what we could know.

Just as we have done with the art and story today,
zoom in your focus on the art and story of life all through the week.
The Divine Artist offers us such poignant beauty each day
in our own stories,
in the stories around us,
in the heartbreak, fear and pain, the anxiety and the joy.
May God's love, comfort and hope frame your hearts and lives
during these days of social distancing,
concern, discernment and determination.

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

The Lord Bless You and Keep You - John Rutter