

# Maundy Thursday

Prayers in Holy Week



*You're not going to wash my feet.  
You're not going to wash my feet!*

## Maundy Thursday

The disciples did as Jesus directed. They prepared for the Passover and in the evening he came to the house with the twelve.

Jesus knew that his hour had come, that he must leave the world and go to the Father. He had always loved his own who were in the world, and now he was to show the full extent of his love.

During supper, Jesus well aware that the Father had entrusted everything to him and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from the table, laid aside his garments and taking a towel, tied it round him. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel. Until he came to Peter who said,

*You're not going to wash my feet.  
You're not going to wash my feet!  
I mean it and I won't let you.*

*It's not your job such dirty work,  
It's not your place to be seen doing  
what masters love and servants loathe.  
And I - we - have come to call you master;  
and you - you want to be our servant!  
Oh, how humiliating!*

*You are the one we call our Lord.  
You are the one on whose own word  
all our words hang.*

*You are the one we'll always follow,  
the one we'll never reject,  
never betray,  
never deny.*

*Why empty yourself of dignity  
to go down on the ground like a slave?  
If you're down on your knees  
won't the world walk on by,  
thinking you feeble and weak?  
Why not rule from the sky,*

*stretch your arms around the world,  
not my ankles?*

*You're not going to wash, my feet.  
You're not going to wash ...*

Peter,  
this is what he must do. And this is what you must do. To prevent it ...  
is to pretend to be perfect, and you are in need of as much washing as us all.

This, whom you call 'servant',  
is your Lord.  
To be the Lord means to be the servant;  
to do the dirty work and to do it in love.

And that is very costly,  
although you count it stupid.

For a good world,  
a man may lay down his life with pride,  
but for a bad world  
and for people who reject, betray, deny,  
it is much harder.

His power is in his weakness.  
Any you may not know that today,  
and you will not think it tomorrow,  
when from the a cross, against the sky,  
he hangs helpless.

But this is the way  
the world is transformed ...  
by loving the unlovely,  
by dying for the lifeless,  
by forgiving those, like you,  
whose hearts are too stubborn to see  
what they are  
or know who he is.

Be still,  
and let your feet be washed  
and let your mouth be closed.

Think not always to act,  
always to speak  
But first let you Lord do for you  
what you must do for each other.

### **Sit here while I pray**

Sit here while I pray.  
The sorrow in my heart is so great.  
It almost crushes me.  
Stay here and keep watch with me.

*Father, I have shown your glory on earth,  
I have finished the work you gave me.*

*I have given my disciples your message  
and the world ... it hated them.*

*Yet I don't pray  
that they may be taken out of the world,  
I pray that they may be kept from evil.*

Sleeping, Peter? Can you not even keep awake for an hour?

*Father, I pray not only for my friends,  
but for all who believe their words.*

*I pray that they may be one,  
just as you and I are one.*

*Father, the world does not know you,  
but I know you and they know you.*

*So that the world may believe  
that you sent me, may they be one, that they may be one ...*

Peter, keep watch and pray. Don't be drawn by temptation. The spirit is willing,  
but, oh, the flesh ... the flesh is weak.

*Father, if it is possible ...*

*Father, if it is possible ...*

*take away this cup of suffering from me ...*

*take away this cup of suffering from me ...*

*but let it not be what I want.*

*Let it be what you want.*

Are you still sleeping? Are you still taking your ease? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to sinful people. Get up, let us go! Look, here comes the one who is to betray me ...

Lord Jesus Christ, who for love of our souls entered the deep darkness of the cross, we pray that your healing love may surround all who are in the darkness of great mental distress and who find it difficult to pray for themselves. May they know that darkness and light are both alike to you and that you have promised never to fail them or forsake them.

*Llewellyn Cumings*