

# Maundy Thursday Worship at Home

Rev Heather S Dorr, 2021

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus gathered with his closest friends to share together in the Passover meal. This year, though we cannot be gathered as a church in one space, we can observe this evening in remembrance of Christ by connecting with one another. You may choose to worship with just your immediate family at home, include any loved ones in your “bubble”, or to reach out via phone or video chat to invite others to worship with you from their own home. This might mean planning to worship with your small group or reaching out to someone who does not have a church home.

## Take, Bless, Break, Give.

This is the four-fold pattern of the Lord’s Supper. When we read Scripture, we see how Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it. On this night, Maundy Thursday, the Lord Jesus commanded us to do the same in remembrance of him. So tonight, we too will participate in this four-fold pattern. As we observe each of the four sections, we will begin by reading Scripture, then participating together in an activity and conversation. When the group is ready, go to the next section. You can complete everything with a leader guiding through this order of worship.

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### TAKE

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:21-27 (NRSV)

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?”

**Activity:** Taking up your cross. Have each person find a different cross in your home. It might be a wall decoration, a hand cross, a piece of jewelry, or a cross on a Bible. Allow

time for each person to share the cross that they found, why it is important to them, and what it tells them about their Christian journey and their relationship with Christ.

### BLESS

**Scripture:** John 13:1-11

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."

**Activity:** Blessing one another. Find a washcloth, wet it with warm water, and wash one another's hands. Each person should wash someone's hands and have their own hands washed. As you wash their hands, offer this blessing: "I bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Make sure everyone knows the words of blessing before you begin. For those who are joining your group from the phone or the computer, they should have their own washcloth and carefully wash their hands while someone offers the words of blessing.

### BREAK

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:36-46 (NRSV)

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your

rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

**Activity:** Breaking open our lives. Everyone should be given a cracker or a piece of bread. Taking turns, each person should have the time to share their prayer concerns: what breaks their heart. This is a time to be honest and vulnerable with one another. As each person speaks, they might tear off a small piece of bread for each thing that breaks their heart or snap the cracker in half after they are done with their sharing. When the whole group has gone, you will step outside and toss the bread or crackers for wildlife to take. This is a symbol of giving those prayer requests over to God.

### GIVE

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:26-29

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

**Activity:** Giving the meal to one another. In remembrance of God's love for us, each person shall receive a new piece of bread or a cracker. What has been broken is now whole. What has lost has been restored. Take the blessing and eat the bread or the cracker. When everyone has eaten, join together in the Lord's Prayer.

*Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.*