



*Maundy Thursday is the day when we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. It is the eve before his crucifixion. Let's take few moments to read through the following words and prayers and take time to reflect in our hearts what God wants to say to us.*

**On this night, our Lord Jesus Christ said:**

**"A new commandment I give to you,  
that you love each other,  
as I have loved you."**

**Scripture reading**

John 13:1-20

## Reflection

John reflects on the last supper. It is the eve before Jesus was arrested and crucified, the last of “the good old times” when they were together and shared so much. At this last time Jesus is acting out a very powerful sermon, when he simply bowed down and washed all the disciples’ feet. This is a job for a servant and Jesus is making two major statements with this act.

The first one is about being cleansed and being pure. More comes out as he explains things to Peter. Peter refuses what Jesus intended to do for him. Jesus indicates that unless Peter is washed he has no share with Jesus. After Peter recognised what Jesus meant, and eagerly asks to be washed all over. Jesus pointed out that there is no need, since he had been washed and it is only his feet that are contaminated and need additional washing. Here we face the perhaps uncomfortable, but clear true picture of the human soul. We are contaminated and we need to get clean. Scripture is bringing this up in a variety of metaphorical language but they all mean the same. There is the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, there is repentance, there is a sieve to separate good and bad wheat, and there is an axe, sword, and the word of God. All these things indicate their purifying property once applied to our soul. It is important to learn that there is an initial act of getting clean and it is what Jesus has done for us, taking our sins away. It is a process of repentance and accepting his forgiveness. But there is the equally important action of regular spiritual hygiene. We have to maintain our hearts in tune with that initial call to be part of what Jesus has done for this world.

The Second message of this unique action is the message of serving each other. When I first joined the church and attended conferences and various meetings where the top leaders were present, I was touched by the sense of being servants to each other regardless of rank and position. Watching the Chairman of the District take up the tea towel in the kitchen, or sweep the floor after a faith tea often said more than words. It is the message of humility and serving each other that Christianity nurtures. It also penetrated the way of thinking outside the Christian community. This attitude is the very essence of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. It is an action sermon we exercise every time we care for others no matter what kind of service it requires.

## Prayer

***Let us confess our sins to God and ask him to cleanse us.***

Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you, against our neighbour, and against each other,  
in thought, word and deed,

in the evil we have done and in the good we have not done,  
through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.

We have wounded your love and marred your image within us.

We are sorry and ashamed and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,

forgive us all that is past and lead us out of darkness

to walk as children of light. **Amen**

***This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you:***

That God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

If we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

we have fellowship with one another,

and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

This is Christ's gracious word. - "Your sins are forgiven"

### **Hymn stf 272**

- 1. From heaven you came helpless babe,  
Entered our world, your glory veiled,  
Not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live*

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.*

2. There in the garden of tears  
My heavy load he chose to bear;  
His heart with sorrow was torn,  
“yet not my will but yours, “ he said.
  
3. Come see his hands and his feet,  
The scars that speak of sacrifice,  
Hands that flung stars into space,  
To cruel nails surrendered.
  
4. So let us learn how to serve,  
And in our lives enthrone him,  
Each other’s needs to prefer,  
For it is Christ we are serving.

*Graham Kendrick*