

Maundy Thursday Liturgy for Families

Entering the Space

Prepare a space where you can imagine yourself as one of the disciples having a meal with Jesus. Set the scene with candles and a bowl of water.

If you choose to observe the Lord's supper, gather elements for communion (bread and wine, juice or water).

Before the Meal

Read:

Maundy is a strange word! Can everyone say, "Maundy"?

Maundy comes from a Latin word, *mandatum*, which means command or instruction. During the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples, his closest friends, Jesus gave them a NEW command. Let's find out what it was.

Read aloud John 13:33-35 (NLT)

Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer...So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

Reflection:

- One of the ways that Jesus showed his disciples that he loved them was by washing their feet. How do you think washing their feet was a good example of love?
- What does it mean to love someone? What kinds of things do we do to show someone we love them?
- Share: Who has shown you love this year? How? Who can you show love to this year? How?
- **On your handprint Easter Lily:** Write the names of people who have shown you love this year and the names of people that you love.

The Lord's Supper (Optional)

Reader 1: "Jesus' death on the cross is the ultimate act of love. He gave his life so that we could be forgiven, he rose from the dead so that we could have new life.

Jesus didn't just give a new command at the last supper, Jesus also gave us a new way to remember that command. Jesus took some bread and some wine and he gave it to his disciples. He said that the bread and wine would remind them of how much he loved them. Ever since, people who follow Jesus take bread and wine/juice as a way to remember his death until he comes again."

Take some bread and pass it to everyone at the table.

Reader 2: "This is the body of Christ, broken for you. Take and eat."

Reader 1: "Jesus then took a cup, he gave it to his disciples, and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people for the forgiveness of sins."

Fill everyone's cup with wine, juice, or another drink to represent the wine served during communion.

Reader 2: "The Blood of Christ, shed for you. Take and drink."

Prayer

"Lord Jesus, thank you for loving us, for giving your life for us so that we can have life in you. We receive your love. Help us love each other as you have loved us. Amen."