

Invitation to cleansing

Responsive reading

One: On a night marred by denial, desertion, and betrayal, Jesus exemplified love and forgiveness.

All: "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

One: In a room clouded by disappointment and occupied by discontented disciples, Jesus kneels to serve each one.

All: "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

One: Before we don a towel and before we sit or kneel at the basin of water, let us consider the power of Christ's transformative love that washes away the dustiness of the world as well as the residue it leaves behind on us.

All: "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

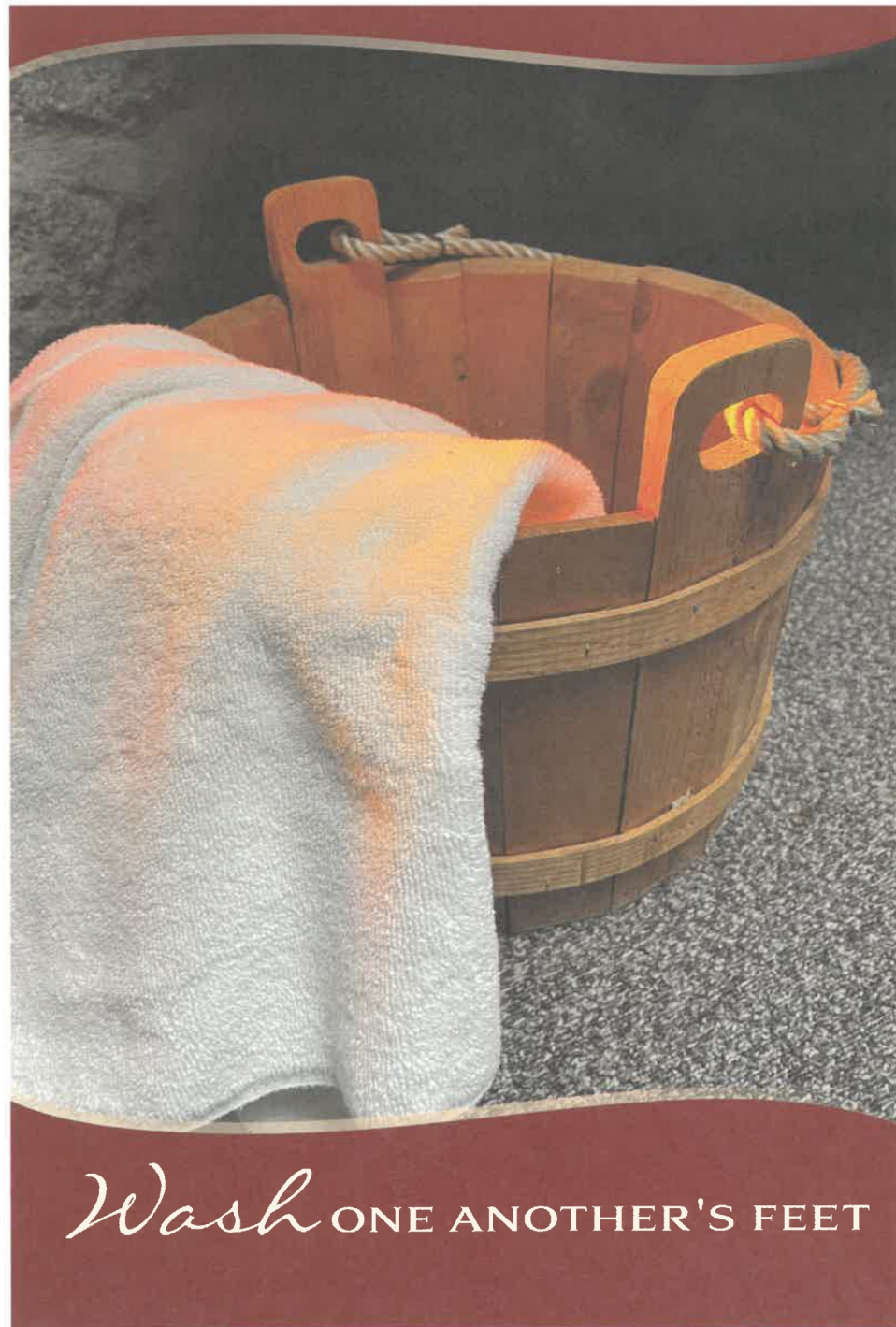
One: We too are called to serve one another in solidarity and love. In this act of serving and being served, may you allow Christ's cleansing love embodied through the hands of the one sitting beside you to refresh your spirit and strengthen you for the journey ahead.

All: "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

—Glenn McCrickard
La Verne, California

"So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash *one another's feet*" (John 13:14, NRSVue). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

April 2, 2026, Love Feast. Photo © Wendy McFadden. Used by permission.
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Wash ONE ANOTHER'S FEET

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 PM

Love Feast

April 2, 2026

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

OPENING HYMN #1

"What is this place"

[Verse 1]

*What is this place where we are meeting? Only a house, the earth its floor,
walls and a roof sheltering people, windows for light, an open door.*

Yet it becomes a body that lives when we gathered here, and know our God is near.

[Verse 2]

Words from afar, stars that are falling, sparks that are sown in us like seed.

Names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders sent from the past are what we need.

We in this place remember and speak again what we have heard:

God's free redeeming word.

[Verse 3]

And we accept bread at his table, broken and shared, a living sign.

Here in this world, dying and living, we are each other's bread and wine.

This is the place where we can receive what we need to increase:

God's justice and God's peace.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

THE SYMBOL OF SERVICE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:1-17

#843

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 decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. 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 supper, 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."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

HYMN #307

"Will you let me be your servant"

[Verse 1]

*Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
grace to let you be my servant too.*

[Verse 2]

*We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road. We are here to help each
other walk the mile and bear the load.*

[Verse 3]

*I will hold the Christ light for you in the nighttime of your fear. I will hold my hand
out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

[Verse 4]

*I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share
your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.*

[Verse 5]

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known
together of Christ's love and agony.*

[Verse 6]

*Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
grace to let you be my servant too.*

THOUGHTS REGARDING FEETWASHING

(Continue)

FEET OR HAND WASHING

HYMNS DURING THE FEETWASHING:

"Here in our upper room" #450

[Verse 1]

*Here in our upper room with you, around your hallowed table,
Lord, may we with deep humility fulfill the precepts of your word.*

[Verse 2]

*As you our bless'd Example, taught, we kneel to serve our neighbor's need,
the cleansing of your Spirit sought in heart and mind, in thought and deed.*

[Verse 3]

*We share with you the feast of love as hearts are knit in one accord.
Oh, may your Spirit in us move our wills to love you more, dear Lord.*

[Verse 4]

*With heart, and not with hands alone, we keep the ordinance anew,
and through these sacred symbols prove in serving others we serve you.*

"What a friend we have in Jesus" #574 -words on 573

[Verse 1]

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer.*

[Verse 2]

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged - take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness - take it to the Lord in prayer!*

[Verse 3]

*Are we weak and heavy laden, 'cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee - thou wilt find a solace there.*

"Just as I am" #516

[Verse 1]

*Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou
bid'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

[Verse 2]

*Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of ev'ry blot, to thee whose blood can
cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

[Verse 3]

*Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and
fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

[Verse 4]

*Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind, yea, all I need in
thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

[Verse 5]

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve, because thy
promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

[Verse 6]

*Just as I am, thy love unknown hath broken ev'ry barrier down. Now, to be thine, yea,
thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

THE SYMBOL OF COMMUNITY

SCRIPTURE READING John 15:9-17 Eunice Plank NT 109

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

THOUGHTS REGARDING THE MEAL

BLESSING FOR THE MEAL

THE FELLOWSHIP MEAL

(Continue)

THE SYMBOL OF REDEMPTION

HYMN #259

"When I survey the wondrous cross"

[Verse 1]

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.*

[Verse 2]

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.*

[Verse 3]

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

[Verse 4]

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an off'ring far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 53:1-6

Jack Finniff

OT 683

Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity,
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.
Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases,
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

THOUGHTS REGARDING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE INVITATION

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

NT 173

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

PRAYER OF BLESSING

DECLARATION OF FAITH

"The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ."

PARTAKING OF THE BREAD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 11:25-26

NT 173

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

DECLARATION OF FAITH

"The cup which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ."

THE DRINKING OF THE CUP

MOMENTS OF SILENCE

CLOSING HYMN #421 *"Bless'd be the tie that binds"*

[Verse 1]

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

[Verse 2]

*Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*

(Continue)

[Verse 3]

*We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.*

[Verse 4]

*When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.*

[Verse 5]

*This glorious hope revives our courage by the way,
while each in expectation lives and longs to see the day.*

[Verse 6]

*From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free,
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.*

CLOSING PRAYER

CLOSING ANTHEM

"Gethsemane"

(Larson)

Temple Choir

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You are dismissed after the Temple Choir closing Anthem.

*Thank you to our Deacons and volunteers for making preparations for this Love
Feast service.*

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