

MAUNDY THURSDAY LITURGY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On this night we testify to God's love shown perfectly in Christ.

All: **And we recommit ourselves to love one another as a community of faith.**

Leader: O taste and see that the Lord is good!

All: **Come, let us worship the Lord!**

Leader:

God of love, as we prepare to remember the events of this night, open our eyes to see the beauty of Jesus' self-giving love, and by your Spirit nourish and grow in our community a desire and commitment to serve each other and our hurting world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

READING

John 13:1-35

CONFESSION

Leader:

As we remember this night of betrayal, let us confess our sins before God and one another: Merciful God, we have not loved you with all our heart and mind and strength and soul. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

[Silent confession]

All:

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader:

Forgive and heal us by your steadfast love made known to us in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION

Leader: Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He demonstrated with his life that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by power or authority, but by lowly service. All who follow Jesus as Lord are invited to remember his

example, but none stand more in need of this reminder than those whom the Lord has called into leadership in his church.

Therefore, I invite you who share in this ministry to wash one another's feet tonight, that we may together recall whose servant we are by following the example of our Master. Let us remember Jesus' own words to his disciples on the night before he died:

Leader: So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

All: **For I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done for you.**

Leader: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

All: **Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.**

FOOT WASHING

Basin and towel will be passed around the room. After your feet are washed, you are invited to wash the feet of the person sitting next to you.

CLOSING PRAYER

All:

Blessed are you, Lord God.

The basin and the towel are signs to us of your Son's servanthood.

You have made us partakers of Christ and of one another.

As we go forth, give us grace

to count others more important than ourselves,

to love our enemies,

to make peace.

Send the Spirit of truth to keep alive in us

what Jesus taught and did,

that our words may carry his good news, and

that our lives may bear the shape of the cross.

We pray this all in the name of the One who lives and reigns with You

and with the Holy Spirit,

One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Leader: **Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.**

All: Thanks be to God.