

April 17, 2025 – Maundy Thursday

*Praying With Jesus – Jesus’ Final Desires**

- I. On Maundy Thursday, the church remembers the Upper Room, the last meal the disciples shared with Jesus, their Rabbi, _____ and _____.
 - A. We focus on three major _____ of that evening which shape our worship this evening.
 1. We begin by commemorating Jesus’ _____ leadership through the washing of the disciples’ feet.
 2. Second, there is the institution of the Eucharist or The Lord’s Table or _____.
 3. Then there is the incarnational commissioning when Jesus reveals his deepest desire that his disciples “should _____ one another.”
 - a. This third element is known as the *mandatum novum*, from which _____ derives its name.
 - b. It means new commandment; we recognize a “ _____ Thursday.”
 - B. The events of that first Maundy Thursday have a pretty _____ beginning.
 1. James and John were asking Jesus to seat them next to Him when He comes into his _____.
 2. First, their _____ couldn’t be worse; Jesus had just announced that he would be flogged and die in Jerusalem.
 3. Second, their bold ask really _____ the other disciples.
 4. Luke tells us that the Upper Room conversation included the favorite spat of the apostles — “Which of us is the _____?”
- II. The _____ of Christ is what stuns us. The King of Kings chose the servant’s role as an object lesson.

- A. Foot washing was no more a _____ ceremony than was breaking the bread and pouring the wine.
- B. There is a whole other _____ that emerges from this passage.
 1. Jesus cleanses us by purifying us from that part of our humanity which is _____ by the world.
 2. That _____ is enough for us to remain standing in the world, without corrupting the whole of us.
- III. Our Lenten Series of Messages have been titled *Praying _____ Jesus*.
 - A. I truly believe that Jesus was _____ all through the Upper Room event.
 - B. When we are in service to others, our _____ become a prayer; a prayer for others in _____, a prayer for _____ among Jesus followers, an _____ to the prayers of others.
 - C. Then Jesus got to the central idea of his _____ and _____ as he tells his disciples that he will not be with them much longer.
 1. He gets to the central purpose of that evening: *mandatum novum* – a new commandment, a new _____.
 2. Jesus wants us to love each other, _____ others, love our enemies – those who persecute us, those who we do not even know.
 - D. Jesus loves us and _____ up for us and he asks us to love each other.
 1. But that is just the _____ of expressing God’s love in the world.
 2. I would encourage you to attend our Easter Observance to gain a _____ understanding of Christ’s commandment to love.

*John 13:1-17, 31b-35