

Thursday, March 28, 2024 - Day 38 of Lent

Open in Prayer:

Father, allow me to fast from judging others; while feasting on Christ, dwelling in me. May I fast from the fear of illness, while feasting on the healing power of God. May I fast from words which seek to pollute the area around me, while feasting on speech which purifies. Help me to fast from discontent, while feasting on gratitude. May I fast from anger and feast on patience, fast on pessimism and feast on hope. May I fast from all that is negative while feasting on the encouragement of others and the encouragement You give. During this week, help me to fast from bitterness, while feasting on forgiveness, fast from self-concern as I feast on compassion. Help me to fast from suspicion and feast on truth...to fast from gossip while intentionally feasting on purposeful silence. May I fast from problems which overwhelm me, while feasting on prayer, which can sustain me. Finally, Oh Lord, may I fast from anxiety while feasting on faith. Guide and direct me, as I journey to the cross and the resurrection this week.

-Adapted from "The Fast Life" by Author Unknown.

Today is Maundy Thursday – the day Jesus gave new meaning to the Passover Feast. The day Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. They day Jesus offered a new “mandate” (thus the name Maundy – it is Latin for Mandate) to His disciples to Love one another. Come join us at 7:00 pm as we celebrate communion together as the community of faith on North Grove.

Let's get into God's Word today!

Read John 13:1-17 (NIV)

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Answer the following questions:

1. What do you know about the Passover meal? Historically? Traditionally?
2. What “behind the scenes” information do you get about what is going on in this meal?
3. What cause Jesus to stand up from the meal, take off his outer clothing, and wash the disciple’s feet?
4. How would you feel if someone came over to you, bowed down and washed your feet? Have you ever had that happen?
5. Why did Simon Peter object? And what did Jesus say in response to Simon’s objection?
6. What was the overriding purpose for Washing the Disciple’s Feet?
7. What can you take away from this passage today? If you join us for the service of communion tonight at 7:00 pm, how might this same attitude be prevalent in the communion celebration?

Close in Prayer

Almighty God, you know me better than I know myself. You know my comings and my goings. You know my thoughts, and my dreams. You know when I lay down and when I get up. You know...Search the deepest parts of my heart for anything which might be displeasing to you; please examine my intents and my actions. Expose for me the areas in my life which need work, and then, through the power of your Holy Spirit, give me the strength to make the changes you desire. I long to be closer to You, o God. In Christ’s name I pray, AMEN.