

Maundy Thursday ~ Thursday, April 2, 2026
“The Heart God Desires: The Servant Heart of Christ”
1 Corinthians 11:23-29 & John 13:1-17, 31-35

As we arrive at Holy Week, the focus _____. Instead of asking: What kind of heart does God desire in us? We’re asking: What kind of heart does God _____ to us in Christ?

“A new commandment I give you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you.” (John 13:34)

However, this night isn’t just filled with a command, but with _____ that reveal not only the character of Christ, but also something remarkable about the _____ of God.

When we look at Jesus on this night, we don’t see a distant ruler demanding loyalty or protecting His dignity—we see a _____. And so, tonight we’re invited not only to remember what happened in that upper room, but to see in those actions the kind of heart that _____ the kingdom of God.

3 ASPECTS OF A SERVANT HEART

#1. A servant heart _____.

“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.” (John 13:1)

What Jesus is about to do isn’t simply an act of _____ or courtesy. It’s a revelation of _____, expressed not in words, but in _____ action.

“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.” (John 13:3)

Jesus isn’t acting out of _____ or trying to prove anything. He’s fully aware of who He is and where He’s going. And because He knows this, He’s free to _____.

This is an important truth about the servant heart of Christ: it flows from a secure _____. People who are anxious about their status tend to _____ their dignity very carefully. They worry about how others see them. They hesitate to do anything that might make them look small or _____.

Peter doesn’t fully understand what Jesus means because Jesus’ actions are pointing to something _____ than simple hospitality. The foot washing is a living _____.

Just as Jesus kneels to cleanse the dust from their feet, He will soon go to the cross to cleanse them from _____. The servant heart of Christ stoops low in order to _____ others up.

Despite having done this menial task, Jesus’ _____ remains intact—He’s still teacher and Lord. However, in the kingdom of God, authority expresses itself through _____ service.

“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” (John 13:15)

The servant heart of Christ isn’t just something we _____, it’s something we’re meant to _____—and sometimes the most Christlike acts are the ones no one _____.

If we’re honest, we could admit that this isn’t always easy because serving others requires us to set aside our _____, comfort, and convenience. Our culture celebrates visibility, _____, and success. However, Jesus shows us that in the kingdom of God, greatness often looks much _____, like kneeling with a towel and basin.

Maundy Thursday reminds us that the God we worship isn’t a God who stands far above us demanding _____. He’s a God who stoops low to serve. And if we belong to Him, He invites us to share that same _____.

#2. A servant heart _____.

The meal they’re sharing isn’t an _____ supper. It’s the Passover meal, the annual remembrance of Israel’s _____ from slavery in Egypt.

The Passover meal was a way of remembering that night of _____. It reminded God’s people that their freedom had come at a _____, and that the Lord had delivered them with a mighty hand and an out stretched arm.

The disciples didn’t fully understood what Jesus meant, however, after the resurrection, the meaning would become _____.

Jesus was revealing that the story of Passover was _____ to Him. The lamb that was sacrificed in Egypt was a sign of a greater _____ yet to come. And now Jesus Himself was about to become the _____.

The bread He breaks will become a _____ of His body broken on the cross. The cup He shares will become a symbol of His blood poured out for the _____ of sins. The servant heart of Christ is a _____ heart.

“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread...” (1 Corinthians 11:23)

Even as Jesus shares this meal, He knows what’s _____. And yet, He still offers Himself. There’s no bitterness in His voice, and no _____ in His actions—just a quiet, _____ gift.

These three words—given for you—capture the _____ of the gospel. The love of Christ isn’t _____ or sentimental. It’s _____ and costly. Jesus giving Himself for the life of the _____.

The servant heart of Christ isn’t just willing to help others; it’s willing to _____ for them. Jesus doesn’t offer a small gesture of _____. He offers His _____.

The cross wasn’t an _____, nor was it simply the result of human cruelty, injustice, or misunderstanding. It was the _____ self-giving love of the Son of God.

“No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.” (John 10:18)

Every time we gather around the table, we proclaim the same truth: our salvation was _____ by the self-giving love of Christ.

If we belong to Christ, that same pattern begins to _____ our lives.

#3. A servant heart _____.

“A new commandment I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34)

What makes this command new is the _____ Jesus attaches to it...the love Jesus calls His disciples to share isn’t simply ordinary human _____. It’s a love that _____ His own.

The servant heart of Christ is a heart that loves all the way to the _____.

When we read these words, it’s important to remember what Jesus already _____ ...And yet, none of that causes Him to _____ His love. He still kneels to wash their feet. He still breaks bread and shares the cup with them. He still speaks

words of encouragement and promise.

The love of Christ isn’t dependent on the _____ of His disciples. It’s rooted in His own _____ heart.

The love of Jesus doesn’t come and go depending on our _____, nor does it disappear when we _____ or fade when we fail.

The servant heart of Christ loves even when it knows it will be _____. And that’s exactly the love He calls His followers to _____.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

He says the _____ mark of His disciples will be _____.

The servant heart of Christ loves not only when it’s _____, but when it’s _____.

In many ways this command is just as _____ today as it was in the upper room. We live in a world that’s often marked by division, suspicion, and _____. Relationships can become fragile, and easily broken when disagreements arise. However, Jesus calls His followers to live _____.

None of this happens _____. It requires humility, _____, and a willingness to keep loving even when relationships become difficult.

However, when the Church lives this way, it becomes a powerful _____ to the gospel because love like that doesn’t come _____. It can only come from _____.



As we step back and look at the events of this night, a clear _____ begins to emerge. In the upper room, on the night he was arrested, Jesus reveals the heart of God in a series of simple, but profound _____.

The God we worship isn’t distant or _____. He doesn’t remain safely removed from the struggles of this world. In Jesus, God draws _____, He kneels beside us, He gives Himself for us, and He loves us to the very end.

“I have set you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”