Maundy Thursday at Home Celebration  
First Church of Lombard

INTRODUCTION
Maundy Thursday is celebrated on the Thursday of Holy Week to remember the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples. On this night, we remember three things about Jesus:

1. Before the meal began, Jesus washed the disciples’ feet demonstrating that he was a servant.
2. Jesus shared bread and wine with the disciples instituting the sacrament of Holy Communion.
3. At the end of the meal, Jesus gave a mandate to the disciples saying, “I give you a new commandment (mandate), that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another (John 13:34). “Maundy” in Maundy Thursday comes from this mandate.

Tonight you are invited to remember Jesus’ final meal with his disciples in your own home by:

Handwashing - Enjoying food and drink - Serving with Love

SETTING THE STAGE
Gather Supplies: Food and beverage for a simple meal, table settings, towels to dry hands, paper/index cards and pen/pencil, small bowl or basket.

Prepare the meal: It can be a special dinner or just whatever you happen to have on hand. Take time to set the table, get out the good dishes and light some candles to make it feel special.

Gather a “community”: Get together those at home with you, call or Facetime a friend, or fellow church member, or gather some photographs of your favorite people and put them on the table so you can “share” your meal with them.

Play some background music: https://tinyurl.com/s2kqdp OR https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83kndEsHqMc
HANDWASHING

READ

John 13:3-17

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 the table, 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 returned to the table, 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, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.

DO

Gather around the sink and wash your hands. Take turns helping one another dry hands with towels.

SAY

As you dry your own hands or dry the hands of others say, “Bless these hands that they may continue to be a blessing to others. Amen”
ENJOYING FOOD AND DRINK

READ
Matthew 26:17-19, 26-30

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?’ He said, ‘Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, “The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.” ’ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.’

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

DO
Enjoying sharing a meal together. Take turns serving food and drink to other people around the table.

SAY
Discuss the following questions while you share your meal:
1. Why do you think so many of the stories about Jesus happen around a table or meal?
2. How is communion (at church) similar and different from the meals we eat around our tables at home?
3. What are some ideas for ways to remember to think about Jesus every time we eat a meal?
SERVING WITH LOVE

READ

John 13:31-35

Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

DO

On the paper or index cards write down one way that you will serve someone else this week.

On the paper or index cards write down the name of someone who needs encouraging prayer (someone who is sick, relatives, medical workers, etc.).

Place your papers in a basket or bowl in the center of your table and leave them on your table through Easter to remind you to serve others.

SAY

After everyone has had a chance to write and place their papers in the basket/bowl, go around the table having each person pull out a piece of paper. Read each piece of paper and afterwards say, “Thank you God for reminding us to serve others in word and deed. Amen.”

Conclude your meal by saying the Lord’s Prayer Together.

Everyone help clean up the meal as a way to serve one another!