

Detailed Schedule for Maundy Thursday

- 6:00 – Everyone arrives
- 6:30 – Prepare water for foot washing stations
- 6:40 – Light candles
Turn lights off when candles are lit
Begin Playlist 1
- 6:45 – All disciples take their places
Doors open when disciples are in place
Maggie and Matt hand out bags of money
- 7:00 – (Or when Matt cues Maggie and Patrick)
Disciples Hold Pose
Maggie: Fade out Playlist 1
Pause music in iTunes
Reset volume to normal level
Get Playlist 2 ready
Patrick: Fade in Light Switch 4 as music fades out

Opening slides

Narration by Matt K.: If you have been paying close attention, you will have noticed that there are only twelve people represented at the table in the front. In Leonardo Da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper, there are thirteen: Jesus, and the twelve disciples.

The chair of Judas is empty, for tonight, *you* are Judas. The money that has bought you lies before you. You have already sold the life of the Son of man to those who wish to kill him. You enter the Upper Room that night knowing this will be the last supper for all thirteen of you. Who knows what will become of each of you?

As you take your place at the table, you notice your feet feel chapped and dusty. If only there were a servant here to wash your feet. But, you are a group of nomads, traveling the countryside, with no place to lay your head, nor enough money to provide for such a luxury. The feel of someone washing your feet has been something you have not felt in quite some time.

You are gathered for the evening meal as you have done so many times before. You don't expect anything special to happen on this night, aside from the immanent betrayal, which you have orchestrated. You try to make

small talk with those around you to take your mind off of what will happen later that night.

{Nathan gets up and grabs a towel} What's this? Jesus, not saying anything, takes a towel and grabs a pitcher of water and a basin. Everyone around you is in shock as your teacher, your rabbi, your leader bends down to wash the feet of his disciples. No one says a word. {Pause few a few seconds and let everyone listen to the sound of the water being poured} There is silence, except for the sound of water dripping into the basin, as everyone realizes the meaning of this gesture. {Another Pause}

You think to yourself, "Surely he doesn't know what I am about to do to him. He couldn't bend down and wash the feet of a betrayer. Even Jesus couldn't love that much, could he?" As he gets closer to you, you begin to feel more uncomfortable. The thought of being served by the one you have already betrayed makes your stomach churn. You wish you could disappear. *{Nathan gets up and starts walking towards the congregation.}* But, he gets to you and starts to pour... *Fade out Light Switch 4*

Homily 1 by Phil: In those days, when travelers came from a long distance, after traveling The dry and dusty countryside, the host of a home would put out a basin of water as a sign of hospitality. Yet, the actual washing of feet was not an outward expression of hospitality by the host, but was instead a menial task. As you probably know, foot washing was an act reserved for a servant, or perhaps a child. In no way was someone in power and authority ever expected to wash the feet of those beneath him. Can you imagine what it would have been like to have Jesus, the eternal Word of God, through whom, by whom, and for whom all things were created, to have this Jesus kneel and wash you feet? In a world not all that different from our own, when people vied for power and authority by playing politics, demeaning those under their authority, and exploiting anyone in their path, Jesus shows us a different way. Jesus shows us the way of the cross. With this act, Jesus levels the playing field. The lines between master and servant had been blurred. This act becomes even more profound when we realize that Judas was in the room; that of all the people in the world, Judas had his feet washed by the Son of God.

How different we are from Jesus. When we see sin exposed in people, we often shake our head and think how sad it is. Or maybe we look down on these people for their rejection of God, lack of understanding, or poor morals. This is not the way of Christ. When he saw disease, he saw an opportunity to heal. Where he saw sin, he saw the opportunity to forgive, redeem, and restore. When he saw dirty feet, he saw a chance to wash them. What do you see when you drive through the streets of our city, wander the halls of your school, shop in the mall, or work in your office?

Are you disgusted, or do you see an opportunity to show the love of God to the unloved, the unlovable? The places we tend to avoid, Jesus seeks.

When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, he, again, announced to all those who follow him that life would not be about comfort, health, prosperity, or selfish pursuit. Life is about so much more.

In John 13:14, Jesus tells his disciples, “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.”

On this night, when we look back and remember that night, in an act of obedience to this command by Jesus, we would like to extend an invitation for all those who are willing to come forward and have their feet washed.

{Slight pause} There is no surprise that you may be feeling a little apprehensive at the thought of having your feet washed. People are squeamish about baring their feet to another person and having someone touch their ticklish feet.

Our reluctance to bare our feet to others runs parallel to our reluctance to bare ourselves to others. Many of us are embarrassed or ashamed to take off the shells that cover up the ugliness of our lives, the sin, pain, and vulnerability that we do not want anyone to see. We do not wish to expose our weaknesses to others. Yet this is what Jesus is asking his disciples to do by washing their feet, that they not only expose their dirty feet to him but their dirty lives as well. Jesus, out of his love for them, will wash both.

There are three different stations for foot washing set up at the front. Please feel free to come to any of the three. For the sake of time please remove your shoes at your chair before you come forward. Water will be poured over your foot and then dried with a towel.

If for whatever reason you cannot have your feet washed, we would be pleased to wash your hands. Simply place your hands over the basin when you are seated to let the person know that you would like your hands washed.

This part of the service is entirely optional, but we encourage all who are able to participate. Please come as you are ready. As you come forward, realize that it is not we who wash your feet, but it is Christ working through us.

Start Playlist 2

Start foot washing slides

Foot washing

1. [Austin](#)

2. Phil
3. CJ
4. Stefan
5. Andrew
6. Thomas

2 minutes of silence for reflection

Narration: You shake off the trauma of what just happened and are ready to get this Passover meal over with. {Maggie brings bread and wine to the table} As the night progresses some bread and wine is brought to the table. Jesus rises and begins to bring conversations to an end by capturing each disciple with his intense gaze, a look that never failed to draw you in. After a moment, he begins to speak:

“My friends, please take this bread, for it is my very body, broken for you.”

Every eye is now fixed on the bread that is laid on the table. These aren't the words he was supposed to say at the Passover meal. While these words seem obscure, everyone picks up on the weight they carry.

Then Jesus pours wine into each cup.

“Take this wine and drink it, for it is my very blood shed for you.”

While these words make little sense, there is a mysterious power to them. Jesus continues:

“As you do this, remember me.”

***{All disciples exit}* Most of the gathered disciples wait for a time before eating the bread and drinking the wine, lost in their thoughts and solitude. You, however, wait even longer than the others. Indeed, you cannot bring yourself to lift a hand at all. His words cut into your soul like a knife.**

Jesus does not fail to notice your hesitation and approaches; he lifts your head with his hand so that your eyes are level with his. Your eyes meet only a moment, but before you can turn away you are caught up in a terrifying revelation. At that instant you experience the loneliness, pain and sorrow that Jesus is carrying. You hear crowds shouting, the cries of pain as the whips come across his body. You see nails being driven into his hands. At that moment you taste the sweat that runs from Jesus like blood, and experience the suffocation, madness, and pain that will soon envelop his being. More than all of this, however, you experience a trace of the separation he will feel. Nothing could prepare you for that.

In that little room, that occupies no significant space in the universe, you catch a glimpse of something that you were never meant to see. But it is unavoidable because these images are etched into his eyes. You turn to leave, to run from this place and never look back. You long for death to wrap around you. But Jesus grips you with his gaze and smiles compassionately. Then he holds you tight in his arms. He understands that the weight you now carry is so great that it would have been better if you had never been born. After some time has passed, he releases you from his embrace, lifts the wine that sits before you, and whispers,

“Take this cup, my dear friend, and drink it up, for it is my very blood and it is shed for you.”

All this makes you feel desperately uncomfortable; you shift in your chair and fumble in your pocket, all the time distracted by the silver that weighs heavy in your pouch.

Light switch 4 fades out

Light switch 2 fades in

Lauren Johnson dance – Playlist 3

Homily 2 by Nathan: **What would it have been like to be there on that night? What would it have been like to be Judas on that night? John tells us that Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray him. And yet, Jesus washed his feet. Judas was at the last supper. Jesus never gave up on him. He didn't love Judas because of what he might get in return.**

We like to study characters in the Bible who we think are great examples. Names like Abraham, Daniel, Peter, and Paul. We strive to be like them, to have their faith. But if we are honest with ourselves, how often are we really like Judas? We are all betrayers. We call ourselves followers of Christ, yet our faith can be bought by promises of prosperity, hopes of escape, or the pressure of our society. In biblical terms, this is called idolatry. Much sin, at its root, is nothing less than idolatry. We exchange God for something else. We place our trust in our job or our grades. We find security in the amount of money we have in the bank. We associate with certain people because we think it will make ourselves more valuable. We behave in certain ways and use certain substances to escape away from the world we have been placed in. We look for perfect love in all the wrong places. We forsake the people God has placed in our lives with things. Things like television, sports, movies, computers, video games, email. These things crowd into our lives and force God and others out. We exchange intimacy with God for busyness and religion. We become too busy with religion to be good parents, good children, or faithful friends.

Yes, we are all very much like Judas. It is our betrayal that sent Jesus on this journey of Holy Week to the Cross.

Many of us are aware of how similar we are to Judas. We come and sit in a building full of people and feel as if we are the only one who has betrayed our Lord. We think we are the only one whose sin weighs heavy upon our shoulders. We think that everyone else has it together. And we sit, fidgeting, uncomfortable, knowing that we have sold Jesus for something else, something temporary, something fake.

And yet, we still find ourselves coming back to this table over and over again. Although we may feel uncomfortable with the sin that entangles us, we are somehow drawn to the altar to receive the body and blood of Jesus.

We are all unworthy to be called to this table, yet it is our unworthiness that ensures our invitation.

In acknowledgement of this, let us pray this prayer together: *Merciful Father, we often have much more in common with Judas than we like to admit. We betray you and sell you to others by what we have done and by what we have left undone. When we refuse to love you with our whole hearts, with our whole lives, we have exchanged your promise of an abundant life with the lies of the world. Have mercy on us, O God, and blot out our iniquity. Renew our hearts and give us a spirit of compassion, mercy, and love. As you served Judas even until the very end, give us the strength to love the unlovable, serve the marginalized, and heal the afflicted, for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Though we may have much in common with Judas, there is a significant difference. Judas, even though Jesus pursued him until the very end, went through with the ultimate betrayal. He took the money, had his feet washed, broke bread with Jesus, and then gave Jesus the kiss of death.

We come to this table on a regular basis to be reminded that it is not we who make ourselves worthy to be called followers of Jesus, but it is Jesus himself. Left to ourselves, we are nothing but Judases. But by placing our faith in Christ, by the power of Jesus' broken body and spilt blood on the cross living within us, even the gates of hell cannot prevail against us.

{“Please Stand”, Words of Institution by Pastor Joel, and Lord’s Prayer}

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but*

deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

We will be taking communion this evening by intinction. You will be handed a piece of bread and then you will dip it into the cup.

As you come to this table, please bring forward the bag of money that you received as you came in this evening. This bag represents all the times we have betrayed Jesus and fallen short. Drop it at the altar as a symbol that it is the body and blood of Jesus that takes a bunch of Judases and transforms us by his Holy Spirit into those worthy to be called his children.

Come, all is prepared. You may be seated.

Communion – Playlist 4

Ushers:

1. Austin
2. CJ

Communion Assistants:

1. Alyssa
2. Lauren Wessa
3. Eddie
4. Andrew

Band – “Some will seek forgiveness, others escape”

Light switch 8 fades on

Closing -

Please Stand.

Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the

wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Playlist 5