



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
MAUNDY THURSDAY — YEAR A**

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 116

**A: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

L: I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;

G: he heard my cry for mercy.

L: Because he turned his ear to me,

G: I will call on him as long as I live.

L: The LORD is gracious and righteous;

G: when I was in great need, he saved me.

L: For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from
death,

**G: my eyes from tears, my feet from
stumbling.**

L: How can I repay the LORD

G: for all his goodness to me?

L: I will lift up the cup of salvation

G: and call on the name of the LORD.

**A: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READING & MEDITATION

see next page

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**A: 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.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

**A: As often as you eat this bread and drink
the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until
he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)**

BENEDICTION

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

A: Amen

READING AND MEDITATION:

Maundy Thursday: Christ shows us the full extent of God's love for us. The Church calls this day Maundy because of Jesus' new command in the Gospel that his followers love one another (it is the dies mandati). The Year B lessons focus on the fulfillment of the Passover, and the Year C lessons on the fulfillment of the New Covenant. The Year A lessons, however, focus on Christ's command for humility and love. Christ shows the full extent of his love in both service and sacrifice. He loves us more than life and feeds us his flesh and blood to prove it. Reconciled to God through the flesh and blood of Christ, we follow his command to love each other.

As you study this week, seek to find the connecting theme in all the lessons by using Luther's Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 13:1-15, 34

The washing should have been done before the meal, but the disciples had been arguing about greatness, so no one was willing to condescend to fill this servant's role—except for Jesus. Jesus had come to love them to the end (*εἰς τέλος*). Thirty-one times during the course of the night, Jesus mentioned “love.” Nothing spoke more clearly, though, than his acts of service and sacrifice. Peter, for his part, didn’t want a Messiah who washed people’s feet. However, he hadn’t even begun to see the extent of Jesus’ love! Jesus had not come to merely wash dirt from feet, but sin from hearts! He had come to cleanse by carrying not only a servant’s bowl, but the curse of the cross! There, on Golgotha—there, on the altar of the Sacrament—we see the fullness of his service. There we see the fullness of his sacrifice. There we see the full extent of his love for us. Then we hear his new, his distinctly different command (*ἐντολὴ κανόνη*): Just as Christ loved us with service and sacrifice, so he commands us to love one another.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 12:1-14

During twilight on the 14th day of Nisan, 1500 years before Christ, lambs were slaughtered, doorposts were painted, and God’s people waited to see the full extent of God’s love. God had promised a plague of death on the firstborn sons of unbelievers, but deliverance for all who were covered by the blood of the Passover lamb. The first Passover, however, was just the beginning. God’s people saw the full extent of his love 1500 years later, in the twilight hours of the 14th day of Nisan, when God’s Son showed himself as the Lamb of God sacrificed for us. The firstborn sons of Israel were saved because God’s only begotten Son was sacrificed.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-28

Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper on the night he was betrayed—not afterward. He gave his disciples a sacrament that proclaimed his death—before it even happened. See the extent of the love of Christ: He gave them his body and blood sacrificed for sin, before it had been done! He had come to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world, and nothing would stop his mission. Indeed, he was the Lamb slain from the creation of the world (Revelation 13:8).

In order to save mankind, God needed to provide a Savior who could live under the law for us and die in our place. That meant God had to become one of us—he had to become human. So God took on flesh and blood that he might be our Savior. From the Garden of Eden onward, the solution for sin was to be the flesh and blood of God. Now, in this sacrament, he shows us the full extent of his love for us. He gives us the flesh and blood of God, the solution for sin. He gives it to us to eat and drink, to be part and parcel of our being, to feed and nourish us until he takes us out of this house of bondage to the Promised Land.

My takeaways:

What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?