

HOLY THURSDAY 2023

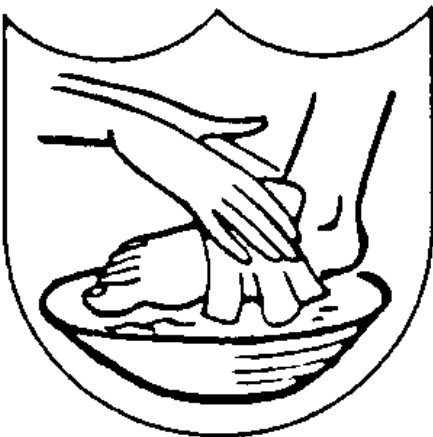
Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, 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, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his 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 everyone was clean.

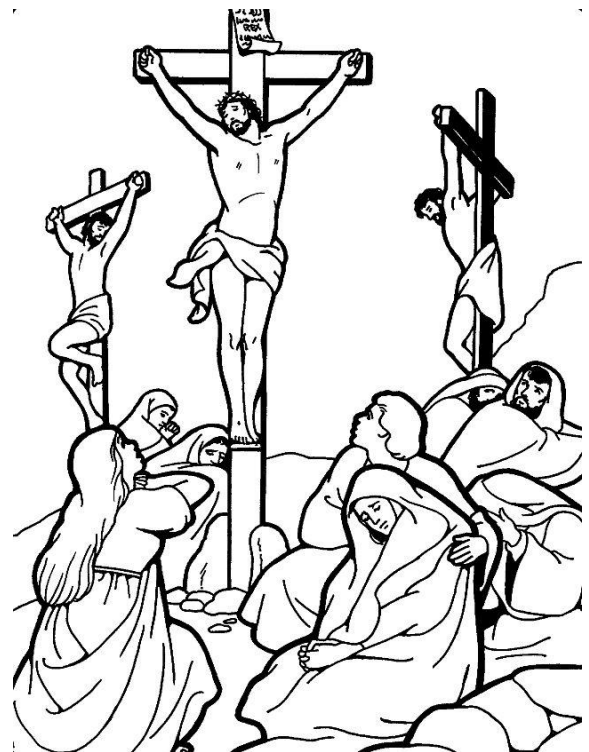
When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, 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.

REFLECTION:

What a picture of fallen humanity! As Jesus was getting ready to suffer and die for them, the Apostles are jockeying for position in his earthly kingdom. How would you respond to them if you were their teacher? Jesus disrobed, donned the garb of a household slave, washed their feet, and by the time he finished the towel must have been brown with dirt and filth from the streets.

Just as Jesus laid aside his garments and assumed the role of a house servant to wash his disciples' feet, so he laid aside his divine power to serve lost humanity whom he loves—all the way to dying on the cross for them. Instead of leading the way to have everybody wash their own feet (the common practice when there was no household slave), Jesus washed their feet. In doing so, he took their sins **to himself**. This is a picture of what he would do on the cross.



*The world says we will be happy when we **get other people to treat us the way we want to be treated**, but Jesus says we will be fulfilled when we **learn to love others the way he loves each of us**.*