

Maundy Thursday

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



Theme and Purpose

Jesus instructed his followers to celebrate the Lord's Supper in remembrance of him, and all Christian traditions do. Fewer celebrate the ordinance of foot washing. Yet Jesus said that we should do that, too. Whether your tradition practices it literally or metaphorically, there perhaps is no better way to identify with the humble servant-leadership of Christ, who "did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant." It is our prayer that through this short re-enactment and through the observance of either or both of these practices, Christians experience again the realization of what Jesus has done for them.

Cast list	Pastor Narrator Jesus – speaking part, in Bible time costume Peter – speaking part, in Bible time costume Other disciples – non-speaking parts, men and women in modern dress selected ahead of time from the congregation
Approximate Running Time	4 minutes
Scene Description	The upper room
Prop List	Each of the disciples will drape around their necks black stoles representing sin. Homemade loaf of bread Cup and pitcher Water pitcher, basin, and towel Table and thirteen chairs
Other Production Notes	None
Related Scriptures	1 Cor. 11:23-25, John 13:1-17, Isaiah 53:4-6
Song Suggestions	You Are My King (Amazing Love), I Will Serve Thee, How Beautiful

Jesus and Peter come out and sit at the table. Other disciples join them from the congregation, wearing black stoles (see Prop List).

Pastor Narrator:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread...

Jesus: *(continuing, looking up to heaven)*

and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, This is my body, which is given for you. Take it and eat in remembrance of me.

Jesus breaks loaf of bread and passes it to the disciples.

Jesus: *(after disciples have taken the bread Jesus pours from pitcher into cup)*

In the same way, after supper he took the cup. *(addressing disciples)* This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Drink it, and remember me.

Jesus passes the cup and all disciples drink from it.

Jesus stands and, while the Pastor Narrator speaks, goes one-at-a-time to each disciple except Peter. As he touches each on the shoulder, the disciple stands and faces Jesus. Jesus takes the stole from the disciple's shoulders and places it on his own. As he finishes with each disciple, the disciple can leave the table and return to the congregation.

Pastor Narrator: *(while Jesus is removing stoles from disciples)*

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows. Yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Pastor Narrator: *(continuing while Jesus is removing stoles from disciples)*

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Break in drama for communion. The second part has only Jesus and Peter remaining on stage.

Pastor Narrator:

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

Jesus stands, takes off his outer clothing, and wraps a towel around his waist. He pours water into basin and kneels with it beside Peter's feet.

Peter:

Lord, are you going to wash my feet?

Jesus:

You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.

Peter:

No, you shall never wash my feet.

Jesus:

Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.

Peter:

Then, Lord, not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!

Jesus: (taking stole off Peter's shoulders and placing it on his own)

You have already been washed – in me. A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet.

Jesus then washes Peter's feet.

Jesus: *(standing and addressing congregation)*

Do you understand what I have done for you? 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.

Jesus and Peter leave together. Segue into foot washing ceremony.

Fade to black

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