

Holy / Maundy Thursday

Homily: Fr. Marco Park

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Tonight, we gather to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper; the night when Jesus shared His final meal with His disciples. In John's Gospel, we hear these beautiful words: "Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."

So, who are "His own"?

Certainly, His disciples: but I believe this includes all of us; you and me.

Jesus loves each of us personally, deeply, and completely.

Tonight, we remember and celebrate that love.

How did Jesus show His love for us? Not by giving orders, but by kneeling down and washing His disciples' feet. The Son of God, the Creator of the universe took a towel, bent down, and gently washed the dirty feet of His disciples. This is more than just a kind gesture. It is *Love in Action* – a love that lowers itself to lift others up: a love that gives everything.

Tonight, we also remember that this is the night Jesus gave us the Eucharist. Even though He was about to leave, He wanted to remain close to us. So, He gave us His Body and Blood so that we might always be with Him, and He with us.

In John's Gospel, we don't see the Last Supper in the usual way. Instead, we see Jesus washing the feet of His disciples, because this is what the Eucharist means for our lives: a life of love, humility, and service.

After washing their feet, Jesus said: "For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." (John 13:15) This is not a command out of obligation; it's an invitation – an invitation to share in His love. When we realize how deeply Jesus has loved us, we are moved. We begin to ask: "How can I love as He has loved me?" Maybe tonight, we can say in our hearts: "Lord, please wash my feet, too."

Jesus washed the feet of all twelve disciples; even Judas who would betray Him. Jesus knew what Judas would do, but He still washed his feet. That is



the depth of His Love. If Jesus could wash the feet of Judas, He will gladly wash yours.

Peter also hesitated. He said: “Lord, are You going to wash my feet?”

Maybe Peter felt unworthy. Maybe he thought he had to earn that love. But later, after Peter denied Jesus three times, Jesus looked at him with love, and Peter wept. In that moment, Peter understood: that Jesus knew everything about him, and still loved him.

Dear friends, this is how our Lord loves us; not because we’re perfect, but even with all our weaknesses.

So, let Him wash your weak and dirty feet.

Let Him love you.

And, I would like to say: may His love give us the strength to go and love one another, just as He has loved us.