



## The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

9 April 2020

Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) - Jueves Santo

### Special Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

### Other announcements

- John's sister, Susan M., serves faithfully as a nurse in Michigan. She has been diagnosed with the virus. Prayers for her safety and recovery from all of us at St. Paul.
- There will be no Mass next Sunday 12 April, nor for the remainder of the month of April. We will watch the news carefully and evaluate the safety of our church gathering. Church members will be contacted by phone, text or email regarding the next Mass date. Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>



In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.



### We pray

*Suscipe - St. Ignatius Loyola*

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty,  
my memory, my understanding and my whole will.

All that I am and all that I possess, You have given me:

I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will.

Give me only Your love and Your grace;

with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more.

† Amen

## Confiteor

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. And I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

My God, I am sorry for my sins because I have offended you. I know I should love you above all things. Help me to do penance, to do better, and to avoid anything that might lead me to sin. Amen.



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## Gospel John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."



After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



## Homily

The Holy Mass, and most other religious services of the many Christian churches, has elements of the Last Supper. We commemorate this most special event during our religious services in the Christian world.

The Priesthood began at the Last Supper. The first ministers of the New Covenant were ordained that day. The new Covenant was the beginning of the Christian church.

There were teachers of the Old Testament, also called the Old Covenant. The rabbis were the teachers of the Torah and leaders of the prayers.

Jesus knew where he was and where he was going. He knew that the beginning of the New Covenant was at hand. Training was almost over for the Apostles and they would continue with the mission of Christ. The first priests would ordain many more through the centuries. Priests and ministers of the word would continue to teach and preach... on into where we are today.

The sacrifice of the New Covenant was Jesus Christ himself. In the Old Covenant rabbis and ministers sacrificed animals; and in very early times humans were offered as sacrifice.

We witness the act of Jesus in his most humble presentation to his disciples; as a slave who washes their feet. He greeted them knowing he would be betrayed by Judas and that Peter would be so afraid that he would deny knowing Jesus. He knew that the others would run and hide from his persecutors.

Jesus would sit as their mentor this one last time and prepare them with ordination, and a demonstration of how to serve those you love and how to serve the Lord.

In the time of Christ everybody walked where they were going unless they were fortunate enough to own and maintain a horse... not likely.

They walked in the dirt; there were no sidewalks or paved roads. They didn't have comfortable shoes. Feet were tired when they arrived, and dirty too. For those that could afford an inn, they probably paid extra for a foot wash and a massage for the feet. The paid staff (meaning slaves), would be the ones who carried out this unpleasant chore.

Jesus greeted his disciples with the same gesture; as a humble servant. The Gospel said Jesus wore a towel at the waist. Today that cloth is symbolized by the stole that ministers wear. It functions as a reminder that we serve.

More symbolism... Christ's ministry was about living and dying for us. We were cleansed by his life. Jesus insisted that the disciples be washed by him. We must allow and embrace Jesus to make us clean. Jesus served us and we must serve others in life by showing the way and following the commandments of God.

The bread and the wine. Travelers with dirty-feet were served bread and wine. They were refreshed on their journey. They partook of the feast.

The Eucharist we receive is Christ himself in the transformed from bread and wine. Jesus refreshes us along our journey of life. Our life is a sort of pilgrimage, and we travel to a special place (heaven) during our life. Along the way we may need a reminder of why we're here and where we are going... when we're done being here.



Receiving Holy Communion when we meet with our church family is exactly the reminder we need. Confession and absolution cleans us from the things we should not have done and strengthens our resolve to follow the commandments of the Lord.

Jesus said to Peter, "Unless I wash you, you have no inheritance with me."

Let God's grace wash over you so you may inherit the kingdom of heaven.



### Evangelio Juan 13:1-17, 31b-35

Era antes de la fiesta de la Pascua, y Jesús sabía que había llegado la hora de que él dejara este mundo para ir a reunirse con el Padre. Él siempre había amado a los suyos que estaban en el mundo, y así los amó hasta el fin.

El diablo ya había metido en el corazón de Judas, hijo de Simón Iscariote, la idea de traicionar a Jesús. Jesús sabía que había venido de Dios, que iba a volver a Dios y que el Padre le había dado toda autoridad; así que, mientras estaban cenando, se levantó de la mesa, se quitó la capa y se ató una toalla a la cintura. Luego echó agua en una palangana y se puso a lavar los pies de los discípulos y a secárselos con la toalla que llevaba a la cintura.

Cuando iba a lavarle los pies a Simón Pedro, éste le dijo: —Señor, ¿tú me vas a lavar los pies a mí?

Jesús le contestó: —Ahora no entiendes lo que estoy haciendo, pero después lo entenderás.

Pedro le dijo: —¡Jamás permitiré que me laves los pies!

Respondió Jesús: —Si no te los lavo, no podrás ser de los míos.

Simón Pedro le dijo: —¡Entonces, Señor, no me laves solamente los pies, sino también las manos y la cabeza!

Pero Jesús le contestó: —El que está recién bañado no necesita lavarse más que los pies, porque está todo limpio. Y ustedes están limpios, aunque no todos.

Dijo: «No están limpios todos», porque sabía quién lo iba a traicionar.

Después de lavarles los pies, Jesús volvió a ponerse la capa, se sentó otra vez a la mesa y les dijo: —¿Entienden ustedes lo que les he hecho? Ustedes me llaman Maestro y Señor, y tienen razón, porque lo soy. Pues si yo, el Maestro y Señor, les he lavado a ustedes los pies, también ustedes deben lavarse los pies unos a otros. Yo les he dado un ejemplo, para que ustedes hagan lo mismo que yo les he hecho. Les aseguro que ningún servidor es más que su señor, y que ningún enviado es más que el que lo envía. Si entienden estas cosas y las ponen en práctica, serán dichosos. [...]

»Ahora se muestra la gloria del Hijo del hombre, y la gloria de Dios se muestra en él. Y si el Hijo del hombre muestra la gloria de Dios, también Dios mostrará la gloria de él; y lo hará pronto. Hijitos míos, ya no estaré con ustedes mucho tiempo. Ustedes me buscarán, pero lo mismo que les dije a los judíos les digo ahora a ustedes: No podrán ir a donde yo voy. Les doy este mandamiento nuevo: Que se amen los unos a los otros. Así como yo los amo a ustedes, así deben amarse ustedes los unos a los otros. Si se aman los unos a los otros, todo el mundo se dará cuenta de que son discípulos míos.





## Homilía

La Santa Misa, y la mayoría de los otros servicios religiosos de las muchas iglesias cristianas, tienen elementos de la Última Cena. Conmemoramos este evento más especial durante nuestros servicios religiosos en el mundo cristiano.

El sacerdocio comenzó en la última cena. Los primeros ministros del Nuevo Pacto fueron ordenados ese día. El nuevo pacto fue el comienzo de la iglesia cristiana.

Había maestros del Antiguo Testamento, también llamado el Antiguo Pacto. Los rabinos fueron los maestros de la Torá y los líderes de las oraciones.

Jesús sabía dónde estaba y adónde iba. Él sabía que el comienzo del Nuevo Pacto estaba cerca. La capacitación casi había terminado para los apóstoles y continuarían con la misión de Cristo. Los primeros sacerdotes ordenaban muchos más a través de los siglos. Los sacerdotes y ministros de la palabra continuarían enseñando y predicando ... sobre dónde estamos hoy.

El sacrificio de la Nueva Alianza fue el mismo Jesucristo. En el Antiguo Pacto, los rabinos y los ministros sacrificaban animales; y en tiempos muy tempranos los humanos fueron ofrecidos como sacrificio.

Somos testigos del acto de Jesús en su presentación más humilde a sus discípulos; Como esclavo que lava sus pies. Los saludó sabiendo que Judas lo traicionaría y que Pedro temería tanto que negaría conocer a Jesús. Sabía que los demás correrían y se esconderían de sus perseguidores.

Jesús se sentaría como su mentor por última vez y los prepararía con ordenación, y una demostración de cómo servir a los que amas y cómo servir al Señor.

En la época de Cristo, todos caminaban hacia donde iban a menos que tuvieran la suerte de poseer y mantener un caballo ... no es probable.

Caminaron en la tierra; No había aceras ni caminos pavimentados. No tenían zapatos cómodos. Los pies estaban cansados cuando llegaron, y también sucios. Para aquellos que podían pagar una posada, probablemente pagaron extra por un lavado de pies y un masaje para los pies. El personal asalariado (es decir, esclavos), serían los que llevaron a cabo esta tarea desagradable.

Jesús saludó a sus discípulos con el mismo gesto; Como un humilde servidor. El evangelio decía que Jesús llevaba una toalla en la cintura. Hoy esa tela está simbolizada por la estola que visten los ministros. Funciona como un recordatorio de que servimos.

Más simbolismo ... el ministerio de Cristo fue sobre vivir y morir por nosotros. Fuimos limpiados por su vida. Jesús insistió en que los discípulos fueran lavados por él. Debemos permitir y abrazar a Jesús para limpiarnos. Jesús nos sirvió y debemos servir a otros en la vida mostrando el camino y siguiendo los mandamientos de Dios.

El pan y el vino. A los viajeros con los pies sucios se les servía pan y vino. Se refrescaron en su viaje. Ellos participaron de la fiesta.

La Eucaristía que recibimos es el mismo Cristo en el transformado de pan y vino. Jesús nos refresca a lo largo de nuestro viaje de la vida. Nuestra vida es una especie de peregrinación y viajamos a un lugar especial (el cielo) durante nuestra vida. En el camino, es posible que necesitemos un recordatorio de por qué estamos aquí y hacia dónde vamos ... cuando hayamos terminado de estar aquí.



Recibir la Santa Comunión cuando nos reunimos con la familia de nuestra iglesia es exactamente el recordatorio que necesitamos. La confesión y la absolución nos limpian de las cosas que no deberíamos haber hecho y fortalecen nuestra determinación de seguir los mandamientos del Señor.

Jesús le dijo a Pedro: "A menos que te lave, no tienes herencia conmigo".

Deja que la gracia de Dios te bañe para que puedas heredar el reino de los cielos.



