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### What is MAUNDY THURSDAY?<sup>1</sup>

*“A new commandment I give you that you love one another; even as I have loved you that you also love one another.”*

John 13:34 (RSV)

**Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter, believed to be the day when Jesus celebrated His final Passover with His disciples.** Most notably, that Passover meal was when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples in an extraordinary display of humility. He then commanded them to do the same for each other. This is why services on Maundy Thursday generally include the washing of feet or other acts of physical care as an integral part of the celebration. If you’ve never participated in or witnessed a foot washing ceremony, it’s an incredibly humbling activity—one can imagine how difficult it would have been for the disciples to allow Jesus to humble himself in this way. Maundy Thursday also commemorates **Jesus Christ’s institution of the Last Supper**, which represents his body that was broken and blood that was shed for the remission of our sins and is a permanent ordinance for Christians. **It is to be observed “till He come” again.**

**Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the definition of love to a new and higher standard.** Jesus sacrificially met His followers’ deepest need---that of a new spiritual life and the forgiveness of sins. He even loved His enemies, and He calls us to show love to those who don’t appear to deserve it. Just as Jesus loved sinners “to the end” (*John 13:1*) when He had nothing to gain from them, so must we. **The Bible says that there was nothing attractive about sinful mankind that drew Him to love us. God loved us while we were yet sinners (*Romans 5:8*).** Salvation is not only a wonderful gift that protects us from the penalty that we deserve *Romans 6:23*, the work of Christ also imbues new life, grants spiritual strength, and motivates godly action in those who believe: *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.”* (*Titus 2:11-14*) **Maundy Thursday is April 18, 2019. AMEN.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.christianity.com/christin-life/what-is-maundy-thursday-11628350.html>

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* *Matthew 28:18 – 20*

