

## Maundy Thursday Baptismal Renewal

### **Introduction to the Service**

Beloved community,  
through this baptismal renewal  
we recall how Jesus arose from the Passover meal,  
took off his outer clothes and wrapped a towel around his waist.  
Then poured water into a large bowl and began to wash their feet.  
On this holy night it is fitting to remember  
that Jesus has washed our sins away through the waters of baptism.  
Let us now remember the actions of Christ in our lives,  
and reaffirm our commitment to the body of Christ.

### **Renunciation of sin and profession of faith**

Just as on that night, Jesus kneels before you,  
ready to minister to your needs,  
so on behalf of the whole church I ask you:  
Have you betrayed Christ?  
Have you taken forty pieces of silver;  
seeking to profit from your relationship with Christ?

### ***Lord, have mercy!***

Have you denied Christ?  
Out of fear for your own reputation,  
Out of fear for what others might think of you,  
Out of fear for the consequences of having a relationship with Christ,  
have you lived like Jesus never was a part of your life?

### ***Christ have mercy!***

Have you deserted Christ?  
When others needed Jesus have you disappeared?  
When others needed the sacrifice of Jesus, have you hid yourself away?  
When others needed to hear holy words of saving grace, have you been silent?

### ***Lord have mercy!***

Jesus knelt before Judas Iscariot and tenderly washed his feet.  
Jesus knelt before Peter and insisted that he wash his feet.  
Jesus knelt before every disciple knowing their hearts and with humility, washed their feet.  
You too are water washed.

***Thanks be to God! Amen.***

Now let us join together in affirming our Christian faith:

*We believe in a God of restorative justice.  
A God of steadfast love that endures forever.  
A God who embraces the prodigal,  
who believes that those who once were lost might yet be found,  
and that those who were dead can always be restored by grace.*

*We believe in a God who dwells with us in the flesh  
of the hungry, the thirsty, the sick and lonely,  
those who are rejected by a society that does not know what they are doing.  
A God who does not want to be served, but is seeking always to include all in their love.*

*We believe in a God whose Spirit dwells in every life through grace.  
A spirit of love and compassion that is not limited by national borders,  
by their language, or their cultural beliefs.  
A God whose voice echos through the universe and fills our hearts with awe.*

### **Listening for the Lord:**

Love is speaking to your heart.

*And also to yours.*

Let us pray:

The God who speaks through water, speak to us.  
Let the waters speak to us as they did to the disciples that night.  
Whisper to us of your acceptance.  
Sing to us words that calm our fears and draw us into community.  
In your laughter let us hear the joy of your hearts as you welcome all into this place.

*Speak, Lord, for we are listening.*

God who speaks through the touch of human hands, speak to us.  
Let your touch speak to us as it did to the disciples that night.  
Reveal your healing warmth, let it spread throughout our bodies and into the world.  
Instill within us your courage, as you hold us close.  
Let us feel you near, when everything else seems to disappear.

*Speak, Lord, for we are listening.*

God who speaks through the silence, speak to us.  
Let your quiet presence over shadow us like you did the disciples.  
Diminish every other sound, except for the sound of your heart.  
A heart beating with love for every life including our own.

*Speak, Lord, for we are listening.*

## **A TIME OF SILENCE**

### **Reaffirmation of Faith**

Remember your baptism, the washing of Christ  
and be thankful.

*Amen.*

Share with hungry spirits the fruit of divine bounty:  
Let us share God's love with all.

*Amen.*

Let us share God's joy with all.

*Amen.*

Let us share God's peace with all.

*Amen.*

Let us share the patience of God with all.

*Amen.*

Let us share the kindness of God with all.

*Amen.*

Let us share the goodness of God with all.

*Amen.*

Let us share divine faithfulness with all.

*Amen.*

Let us share divine gentleness with all.

*Amen.*

Let us share a life controlled by love with all.

*Amen. Let it be so.*

### **Great Thanksgiving**

You knew that the time had come.  
You knew what we are like.  
You knew how this evening would end.  
It was all an act of your love.  
It was all an expression of your grace.  
It was time to teach a very difficult lesson about life,  
and you asked your beloved Jesus to teach it.

This is why we gather.  
Our feet are washed.  
We are preparing to pray.

*Hear our prayers.*

*Hear our praise.*

*Know that we are thankful.*

*Accept our heartfelt devotion on this night.*

Jesus knew.  
Jesus knew he would be betrayed,  
asking Judas to go and get it over with.  
Jesus knew he would be denied,  
warning Peter that he would speak his denial three times before the morning.  
Jesus knew that he would stand alone.  
Jesus wished there was some other way:  
to teach about God's unmerited favor;  
about God's restorative justice;  
about forgiveness while we still had clueless to the evil we are doing.

Jesus knew when he took the bread,  
the bread spiced with memories of oppression  
that we would remember this night.  
How the bread had been broken as Jesus urged them all to  
"take and eat for this is his body broken and given for us."

Jesus knew when he took the cup,  
a cup spiced with memories of all the tragic consequences of our sin  
that we would remember this night.  
How Jesus took the cup urging them all to  
"drink with him, because this cup was filled with his blood  
sacrificed to honor God's eternal covenant of grace which grants  
forgiveness to us and to the whole world."

Jesus was right.  
We do remember.  
Jesus knew  
***Jesus would die.***  
***Jesus would live.***  
***Jesus even knew he will be coming again.***

All Knowing, All Compassionate  
whisper fresh meaning into this bread and wine,  
allowing it, in new ways to become for us the body and blood of Christ.

All Knowing, All Compassionate  
whisper fresh meaning into our lives  
allowing us, in new ways to become for the world your church,  
the merciful body and tender bride of Christ.

All Knowing, All Compassionate  
be with us on this sacred night.  
Teach us to love as you have loved us,  
not just in words but in deeds.  
Teach us the grace of service,

that we might not seek to be served.  
Teach us to forgive those who do not understand all that they do.

*We do remember you, O blessed Christ.  
We do remember you, O Holy Spirit.  
We do remember you, Most Imaginative Creator.  
And we worship you most perfect Trinity, now and always. Amen.*

Now as the beloved community, let us pray after the example of Christ:

*Blessed Trinity, you are the essence of holiness.  
Permeate with Your grace the earth and make it just like heaven.  
May all eat today and be satisfied.  
May we be forgiven for any harm we have done to others,  
just as we seek to forgive all who have done any harm to us.  
May we not emulate the evil we experience from others,  
so we will not add to the evil in the world.  
Because your will is grace, mercy and compassion, always. Amen.*

**Sharing in Holy Communion:**

**Prayer after Communion:**

*Thank you for sharing with us this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ. It has helped us to remember all that you have done to exemplify grace in our world. We want to be added to that expression of grace magnifying your presence in our world. Send us out to show forth Christ's grace to those hungering to experience love in their world. That they may come to celebrate Christ's reality with us, today and always. Amen.*

**Charge and Benediction:**

You have been washed by the water and the blood.  
You have been forgiven and set free to be agents of love in the world.  
So go in the name of  
the God of Love, the Life that became love and dwelt among us,  
and the Spirit of Love that dwells in every human heart.  
Go now rejoicing.  
Amen.