

WORSHIP KIT

Creative cations Communications Sample

A SERIES OF SERVICES
for HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP KIT

# A SERIES OF SERVICES for HOLY WEEK

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By Justin Rossow. Children's messages and prayers by Mark Zimmermann. Art and design: Lindsay Taylor. © 2018 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Purchase of this kit gives the purchaser the copyright release to use the material in any format for use in worship.

# A SERIES OF SERVICES for HOLY WEEK

## ABOUT "THY WILL BE DONE"

"Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection during Holy Week. Written by Rev. Justin Rossow, each service in the series focuses on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. Biblical characters are used as insightful reference points each week to guide us in following our Lord more nearly day by day.

For each service the kit contains • sample bulletins with complete orders of service • monolog sermons (in character role) or outlines for a regular sermon • children's message • prayers • music for the accompanist

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Jeff Greunke for excellent contemporary music selections and worship flow support. Thanks to Rev. Richard Rossow for thinking through creative worship and helping shape the final product. Thanks to Roxanne Smith for reading and praying all of the prayers and making substantive comments and encouragement. Thanks to Rev. Matt Hein for camaraderie and an excellent Palm Sunday sermon. Thanks to Conrad Gempf for creative writing and creative editing of midweek monologs. And special thanks to St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, MI, who were the first to worship with this Lenten material.

### ORDERING INFORMATION

Additional resources are available from Creative Communications for the Parish. Contact us for

# current pricing and availability. Call us at 1-800-325-9414. Or visit our website: www.creativecommunications.com.

### A Complete Series For The Weeks Of Lent Is Available:

Those who desire may supplement this service with other services for all of Lent. They are available as a kit and include all the Leader's Guide features described above. The kit includes a CD-ROM (Mac/PC) in RTF format with text of services and of bulletins, plus PDF files of the kit, and PowerPoint documents for use on screens. Kit Code **TWU** 

### Ash Wednesday

God's Will and God's Promise • Abraham and Isaac

By faith, Abraham trusted the will of God when he promised that a son would be born to him. God's will was done when that son, Isaac, was born, and God's will was done when his Son, Jesus, came into the world to redeem his people.

### Week 1

God's Will and My Inadequacy • Moses

At first, Moses did not think he could free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. But God gave him confidence to set his people free. In Lent we remember that God sent his Son to do his will and set all people free from the slavery of sin.

### Week 2

God's Will and My Dreams • David

Anointed by God to rule in Israel, King David followed God's will to shepherd his people, but often failed to live up to God's dream for him. We welcome the Good Shepherd into our lives who fulfills God's dream perfectly to gather his wandering sheep into the sheepfold of heaven.

### Week 3

God's Will and My Identity • Mary

In humility, Mary dutifully accepted the role God had given her to become the mother of our Savior. That Son would later accept his role, faithfully following the path his Father had in mind for him to save us all.

### Week 4

God's Will and My Worldview • Paul

On the road to Damascus, Paul had his worldview turned upside down when God called him to preach the name of the Christ he had been persecuting. We follow God's will by putting the crucified Christ at the center of our worldview.

### Week 5

God's Will and My Response • Lydia

Lydia followed the will of God by responding in faith and hospitality when the Gospel message of Christ's sacrifice was preached to her. We follow the will of God by responding in love and service to one another in return for what Christ has done for us.

### **Bulletins For The Six-Week Kit:**

Code **TWP** • Pre-printed bulletins • 8.5" x 11"

Code TWS • Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 11"

Code TWR • Blank bulletins • 8.5" x 14"

### You can also order the Ash Wednesday service alone:

## Ash Wednesday

God's Will and God's Promise • Abraham and Isaac

By faith, Abraham trusted the will of God when he promised that a son would be born to him. God's will was done when that son, Isaac, was born, and God's will was done when his Son, Jesus, came into the world to redeem his people.

### Code TW4 • Kit

Code TWUB (printed) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code TWF (blank) • 8.5" x 11" bulletins

Code TWK (blank) • 8.5" x 14" bulletins

### Other Resources:

Code TWU1 • Bookmark • 7" x 2 1/2"

Code TWB7 • Promotional Bulletin Insert

Code TW8 • Display Posters • 11" x 17"

Code **PHTW** • Cloth Banner Suitable For Worship

### **Bible Study Resources:**

Code **TWSG** • Thy Will Be Done Student Guide

Code **TWLG** • Thy Will Be Done Leader's Guide

# A SERIES OF SERVICES for HOLY WEEK

# PALM SUNDAY: GOD'S WILL WHEN WE ARE NOT WILLING

## NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Thy Will Be Done special service for Palm Sunday. In this service we remember that we are not always willing to do what God asks of us, but in his Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, Christ reveals to us that even tough roads are worth traversing for the good of the Kingdom.

## **BULLETIN NOTICE**

In this service for Palm Sunday, we remember that we are not always willing to do what God asks of us, but in his Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, Christ reveals to us that even tough roads are worth traversing for the good of the Kingdom.

# A SERIES OF SERVICES for HOLY WEEK

# MAUNDY THURSDAY: GOD'S WILL AND JOYFUL SERVICE

## NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Thy Will Be Done special service for Maundy Thursday. In this service we remember that Christ asks his disciples to wash one another's feet, as he has washed theirs, for the joy that was set before him. Serving one another with joy is a tribute to him who is the Servant of All.

## **BULLETIN NOTICE**

In this service for Good Friday, we remember that Christ asks his disciples to wash one another's feet, as he has washed theirs, for the joy that was set before him. Serving one another with joy is a tribute to him who is the Servant of All.

# A SERIES OF SERVICES for HOLY WEEK

# GOOD FRIDAY: GOD'S WILL IS DONE

## NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Thy Will Be Done special service for Good Friday. In this service we remember that on the cross Christ followed through with the will of God, crying out, "It is finished" as he breathed his last. This ultimate sacrifice serves as a model to look at our lives as a holy sacrifice to him.

### **Bulletin Notice**

In this service for Good Friday, we remember that on the cross Christ followed through with the will of God, crying out, "It is finished" as he breathed his last. This ultimate sacrifice serves as a model to look at our lives as a holy sacrifice to him.

# A SERIES OF SERVICES for HOLY WEEK

# EASTER SUNDAY: GOD'S WILL FOR THE NEW CREATION

## **NEWSLETTER NOTICE**

Join us for the Thy Will Be Done special service for Easter Sunday. In this service we remember that when Christ rose from the tomb, he opened the door to a new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. God's will for us as Easter people is to fix our eyes on the new creation of perfect paradise prepared for us in heaven.

### **Bulletin Notice**

In this service for Easter Sunday, we remember that when Christ rose from the tomb, he opened the door to a new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. God's will for us as Easter people is to fix our eyes on the new creation of perfect paradise prepared for us in heaven.

# A SERIES OF SERVICES for HOLY WEEK

# MAUNDY THURSDAY: GOD'S WILL AND JOYFUL SERVICE

## ORDER OF SERVICE

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

John 15:11

Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains Poured for me the life-blood from his sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find; Blest be his compassion, infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream Which from endless torment did the world redeem!

Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies; But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high, Angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood, Louder still and louder praise the precious blood!

### Invocation

- P In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

### Litany

- P Jesus said: "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love,
- **Q** just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.
- P I have told you this so that my joy may be in you
- **and that your joy may be complete."** (John 15:10-11)
- P Jesus taught: "Blessed are you when people hate you, and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.
- **C** Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven." (Luke 6:22-23A)
- P The Psalmist writes: "Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight.
- **Q** I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God." (PSALM 43:4)
- P "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
- **©** Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." (PSALM 100:1-2)
- P "The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.
- The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes." (PSALM 19:8)

### Responsive Prayer

- P O Lord, we welcome the opportunity to make a joyful noise before you, O God, our Rock and our Redeemer. We come here today to offer our worship and praise. Yet, joyful noises are not easy for everyone to make.
- **©** Some of us are burdened down with the stresses of daily life; some are weary from tasks of serving others; some worried over the state of the world and where it will lead.
- P Speak to us all, O God, in the stillness of this time and remind us of Jesus' willingness to take our burdens upon himself and to learn from him.

- Let us experience his gentleness and steadfast love, for Jesus offers us his joy, so that our joy might be complete.
- P Confident in these promises, we offer this time of worship to you, O God, praying that it may reflect our praise and thanksgiving for all that Jesus has done for us.
- **©** Let his joy be in us, that our joy may be full. Amen.

Hymn of Response ...... Jesu, Meines Lebens Leben 87 87 88 77

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe, Who, thyself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe, Through thy sufferings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit: Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction and hast borne it patiently,

Even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;

Thou didst choose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon, for thy sorrows deep and sore, For thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank thee evermore, Thank thee for thy groaning, sighing, for thy bleeding and thy dying, For that last triumphant cry, and shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

### Confession and Absolution

- P Gracious God, we recognize in ourselves the strengths and weaknesses of Jesus' first disciples:
- although they loved him, they disappointed and failed him.
- P And yet, gathering with these imperfect friends at this last meal Jesus washed their feet in service, and then extended the bread and cup to each. Jesus called them to love one another, and invited them to share in his very life and in his acceptance of the road ahead.
- **©** We are humbled, honored and inspired by the deep love Christ extended to the world, and we take seriously the calling to be the body of Christ today.
- P Forgive us when we disappoint and fail you, and guide us back to a place of trust and faithful, joyful living.

(silence for personal confession)

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the

Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### C Amen.

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Prayer of the Day

### Children's Message

First Reading		Exodus 12:1-14
	<b>C3</b>	
<u> </u>		
C		
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Sermon

Offering

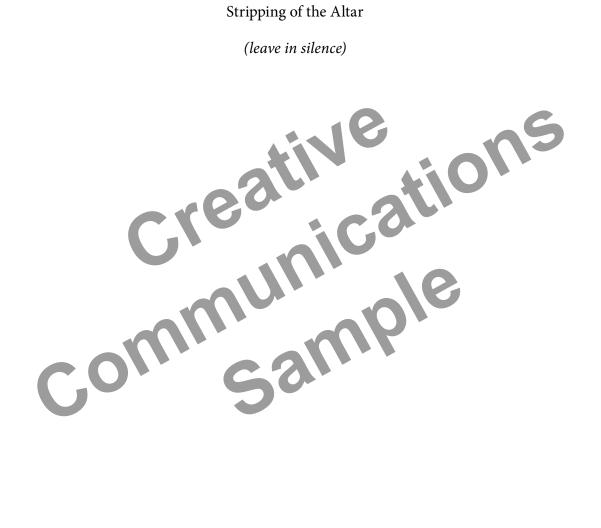
### Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

- P O Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve,
- help us to give our all to you.

Holy Communion

Stripping of the Altar



# A SERIES OF SERVICES for HOLY WEEK

# MAUNDY THURSDAY: GOD'S WILL AND JOYFUL SERVICE

# COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

• If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/jesus-jug-water-towel-on-neutral-115396537

• This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

John 15:11

• The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Wem In Leidenstagen 65 65, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains Poured for me the life-blood from his sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find; Blest be his compassion, infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream Which from endless torment did the world redeem!

Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies; But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high, Angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood, Louder still and louder praise the precious blood!

- The **Invocation** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- The **Litany** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P Jesus said: "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love,
- **©** just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.
- P I have told you this so that my joy may be in you
- **©** and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:10-11)
- P Jesus taught: "Blessed are you when people hate you, and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.
- **©** Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven." (Luke 6:22-23A)
- P The Psalmist writes: "Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight.

- **©** I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God." (PSALM 43:4)
- P "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
- **Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."** (PSALM 100:1-2)
- P "The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.
- The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes." (PSALM 19:8)
- The **Responsive Prayer** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P O Lord, we welcome the opportunity to make a joyful noise before you, O God, our Rock and our Redeemer. We come here today to offer our worship and praise. Yet, joyful noises are not easy for everyone to make.
- © Some of us are burdened down with the stresses of daily life; some are weary from tasks of serving others; some worried over the state of the world and where it will lead.
- P Speak to us all, O God, in the stillness of this time and remind us of Jesus' willingness to take our burdens upon himself and to learn from him.
- **Q** Let us experience his gentleness and steadfast love, for Jesus offers us his joy, so that our joy might be complete.
- P Confident in these promises, we offer this time of worship to you, O God, praying that it may reflect our praise and thanksgiving for all that Jesus has done for us.
- Let his joy be in us, that our joy may be full. Amen.
- The **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Jesu, Meines Lebens Leben 87 87 88 77, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe, Who, thyself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe, Through thy sufferings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit: Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction and hast borne it patiently,

Even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;

Thou didst choose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon, for thy sorrows deep and sore, For thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank thee evermore, Thank thee for thy groaning, sighing, for thy bleeding and thy dying, For that last triumphant cry, and shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P Gracious God, we recognize in ourselves the strengths and weaknesses of Jesus' first disciples:
- although they loved him, they disappointed and failed him.
- P And yet, gathering with these imperfect friends at this last meal Jesus washed their feet in service, and then extended the bread and cup to each. Jesus called them to love one another, and invited them to share in his very life and in his acceptance of the road ahead.
- **©** We are humbled, honored and inspired by the deep love Christ extended to the world, and we take seriously the calling to be the body of Christ today.
- P Forgive us when we disappoint and fail you, and guide us back to a place of trust and faithful, joyful living.

(silence for personal confession)

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### C Amen.

• The **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Patmos 77 77, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P On the night You were betrayed, Jesus, you spoke of joy: joy of abiding in you, joy of doing the Father's will, joy of bearing fruit. Please, give me that joy. I want your delight to be in me; I want my heart to be full. I want to rejoice in the Father's will. I want to bear much fruit. Pour out your Spirit, Lord, that I may will and do what is pleasing to you. Amen.
- The **Children's Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Note: a towel and a pitcher of water

P Hello, boys and girls. Today is Maundy Thursday, the day that Jesus had his Last Supper with his disciples on night before he died on the cross. On this night, Jesus did something very special before he gave his body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Can anyone tell me what he did first? (Hold up towel and picture of water.) That's right! He washed his disciples' feet.

Now that was something that was very unusual for someone like Jesus to do. Washing feet was usually done by the lowliest of servants. So why do you think Jesus did this? (Allow children to respond.) He washed the disciples' feet because he wanted to show them that he was there to be their servant. And he told his disciples to wash one another's feet. Why do you think he said that? (Allow the children to respond.) That's right! He said that because he wanted them to serve each other too.

We read in the Bible that Jesus did everything when he was on this earth, "for the joy that was set before him" (Hebrews 12:2), even washing feet and even dying on the cross to forgive our sins. He served us to the very end with joy in his heart for each one of us. And we should have joy in our hearts, too, each time we serve. Serving does not have to be a burden. It can be something we are happy to do to help someone we love. So the next time your mom or dad asks you to set the table or take out the trash or clean up your room, do it with joy, and see it as a way to serve like Jesus served because of the love we have for one another. Happy are those who serve with love. Let us pray:

Dear Jesus, thank you for serving your disciples on the night you were betrayed and giving us an example of how we should humbly serve one another with great joy in our hearts. May everything we do for one another be a way of honoring you for all that you did for us on the cross. Amen.

- The **First Reading**, Exodus 12:1-14, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast."
- The **Second Reading**, Mark 14:12-16, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.
- The **Third Reading**, John 13:1-17, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's

son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not 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, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

- The **Fourth Reading**, John 15:8-12, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
- The **Fifth Reading**, Mark 14:22-26, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor as a dramatic monolog in the role of a servant named Sol (or the pastor can use the sermon outlines that follow to develop a standard sermon):

P OK, right, well...

### [he holds up his hands in surrender with an air of 'not my fault']

Hello everybody. Sol here. Well, my real name is Solomon—the king that was long on wisdom, you know. My master said he'd rather call me Sol for short.

So I guess you want to talk about that evening, too. I already told all this to the authorities, OK? I don't really know much. The big thing was I know I heard him say 'In a little while you will see me no more and then after a little while you will see me.' Maybe he had been tipped off about the arrest; how would I know? And if he had some the plan for lying low and meeting up later, I don't know anything about it. There was a lot of confusing language about vines and branches, so I told the authorities that if he's missing, he might be at some vineyard. He was expecting his followers to need a lawyer or Advocate, I heard that too. But they all used code language—they didn't confide in me, I swear.

The whole thing started on the first day of the Festival. These strangers came to the door about mid-morning. I remember the time because ol' Caleb had just returned from fetching water. That was strange. "Don't you mean to send Miriam or one of the other women?" I'd asked my master. It was very irregular to send a man to fetch water, Caleb would be humiliated. And Caleb couldn't exactly do so without everyone noticing—him so tall, he'd stand out like a sore thumb. No, though, my master said he meant to send Caleb. [conspiratorially] Do you think it could have been some kind of signal?! Because really soon after he came back with the water, the strangers knocked on the door to see my master.

"Sol"—that's me "Sol, show these men to the upstairs room," my master said. Up we went. I noticed then that they were Galileans, come, no doubt, for the holidays. Passover, for sure. Though it's not unusual for these country people to stay on for Pentecost as well.

I swear to you, even though I could tell they were Galileans, I had no idea they were connected to that Galilean. And even when the whole party arrived that evening, it wasn't easy to tell.

The room they were in wasn't the only room in the house. You know how things are in Jerusalem over the holidays: four or five families where there is usually only one. Caleb and I were working our way through the rooms, saying welcome and washing feet, just extending the normal hospitality, you know.

Upstairs, they couldn't wait for us, I guess. I got upstairs and they already had their own slave there ready to wash their feet. But—you won't believe this—[he is outraged and just naturally expects the audience to be as well] it was really their leader, that Jesus character, dressed as a slave, ready to wash their feet! Anarchists! What is the world coming to? There are union regulations, after all!

I was just about to say something, when one of them objects first—the one they called the

Rock. He said "YOU want to wash MY feet? No, never." Good on 'im. At least one person in the room had some sense.

And then the leader showed his true colors. Dressed as a servant, he ordered like a king: "Unless I wash you, you and I are finished." So the Rock let himself be washed.

See, that's when I knew the Jesus movement couldn't last. What kind of an uprising could be so confused about such basic stuff? Was he a leader or was he a servant? He didn't know; He wanted to be both. I even said to Caleb—you can ask him, I said—"Nothing good will come of this!"

Take it from me, I know a thing or two about being a slave. You don't get to call the shots if you're a slave. You drink the cup that's poured for you. And that's it.

And I know a thing or two about bosses: they don't do the foot-washing, they don't do the cooking, they don't do the cleaning up. They do the eating and the drinking. They don't come to serve, but to be served. I'll tell you what. If I ever had a shot at being a boss, you wouldn't catch me ever dressing like a slave again. A high position is something you grab and hold onto for dear life!

Yet here is this rabbi, this rebel, this messiah, acting like a slave, but a slave in charge. Crazy! Caleb was all for letting the Galilean do our work for us and I saw his point, so we left them to it, just leaving some unleavened bread and dipping sauce on the table.

When I came back, a little later, with the bitter herbs ... well ... I almost didn't need to bring those either. Everyone around the table looked like they'd already eaten bitter herbs. One place was empty—I thought I'd heard someone stamping off into the night. Hey, if you're so interested in what happened, maybe you should ask that guy. Of all of them, he looked like the one with his feet on the ground! He might know the secret plan, if there was one. The Rock guy sure didn't know what was going on! He looked as offended as if he'd been called a liar or something. And everyone was looking either mystified or unhappy.

I heard their leader (now fully dressed and back in his right mind, at least temporarily) sensibly saying "Don't let your hearts be troubled." But he kind of spoiled it by following that with "You trust in God, trust in me the same way." OK, WHAT? That was obviously a mistake. Comparing yourself to the Most High, expecting the kind of trust that people give God?

But this is where he started talking about going away—this was the part that the authorities were most interested in—apparently he thought he could go back to his parents' home and lie low there. I didn't know then, but I know now that the guards wanted to arrest him that very night. He was proposing to give them the slip by going to his father's house, where he would prepare places for all them. He tells them this all smug and self-confident. That didn't work out either, did it? They arrested him before he could get outta town.



• The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Wem In Leidenstagen 65 65, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains Poured for me the life-blood from his sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal in that blood I find; Blest be his compassion, infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream Which from endless torment did the world redeem!

Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies; But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high, Angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood, Louder still and louder praise the precious blood!

# A SERIES OF SERVICES for HOLY WEEK

# MAUNDY THURSDAY: GOD'S WILL AND JOYFUL SERVICE

# CONTEMPORARY MUSIC SONG SUGGESTIONS

• The following song suggestions can be used for a more contemporary worship service in place of the more traditional hymns included in this kit. Rights to use these songs in the service must be purchased by your parish through CCLI or other copyright licensing agencies.

"Lamb of God" by Ike Ndolo, Matt Maher and Tam Le

"Remembrance" by Matt Maher and Matt Redman

"Behold the Lamb of God" by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

"Thy Will" by Hillary Scott

"The Servant Song" by Richard Gillard

"Make Me a Servant" by Kelly Willard