



Maundy Thursday

**Maundy Thursday Preparation
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Oxford, PA
Rev. Dr. Mary Ann Mertz, Rector**

Prior to the liturgy, if you are celebrating at home with just the members of your family or if you are alone:

Have a bowl or basin big enough that a person's feet can go into it

A pitcher filled with warm water

Pour a capful of mouthwash into the water

Towels to dry each person's feet (as many as needed)

Something to place under the basin to keep the floor from getting wet

If some household groups are able to come to the church for the celebration of Maundy Thursday, they should bring with them a basin, pitcher, and enough towels for the family so that each household may safely wash the feet of those who live within their "bubble." You may fill the pitcher with warm water once you arrive at church, before you take your place in chairs arranged for your family group.

READINGS

- [Exodus 12:1-4, \(5-10\), 11-14](#) [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)
- [Psalm 116:1, 10-17](#) [John 13:1-17, 31b-35](#)

The Washing of the Feet takes place following the reading from the Gospel of John. During the live-streamed liturgy, I will invite you to wash the feet of all in your household, whether you are at home or at church.

You may choose to do this in any way that is comfortable for you. For example, if there is a couple in the household, each may wash the other's feet. If there are parent(s) and child(ren), you may wash each other's feet in a way that is meaningful for you.

If you live alone, I invite you also to participate by washing your own feet.

This can also be a time of remembrance and reflection:

Think of when we have celebrated the washing of the feet in church. Remember how it felt. Who washed your feet? Whose feet did you wash? Who poured the water? Who dried your feet? How were your feet cared for by the other? Remember a time when you care for another person's feet, either your children's or a loved one's when they were sick. When did someone care for you? Remember those suffering from COVID-19 and those who wish to touch them and be with them but cannot. Remember all those whom Christ has called us to serve. At this time, we serve by keeping our distance from one another and doing all that is possible to protect ourselves and others. How are we making the sacrifice we are being asked to make? "Love one another . . . Do this in memory of me."

The Night Watch

We hope that you will be able to spend some time following this liturgy praying during the Night Watch. We will continue live-streaming in the church maintaining a time of silence.

There will be a closing live-streamed service with the **praying of Compline, beginning at 10:50 p.m.** You will find the Compline on page 127 of The Book of Common Prayer or as an attachment to the parish email concerning these liturgies. The Night Watch concludes at 11:00 p.m.

With Jesus, we watch and pray. . .

The pelican is a feminine symbol of Jesus Christ. A mother pelican pierces her side and feeds her babies with her blood. Therefore, since about the 12th century, the pelican has been used as a feminine symbol of Jesus, the Christ, who feeds the faithful with his own body and blood. Because it is associated with the eucharist, the pelican has often been used on or near tabernacles as a reminder of Jesus' great sacrificial love. The blood that flows from the pelican's side not only reminds us of the blood of Christ poured out for us in the eucharist but also of the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side on the cross. This piercing of the side of Christ on the cross resulted in the birth of the church of which blood and water was the sign.



Here is a link for the 2020 Night Watch (burning candle in front of the pelican tabernacle) at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Oxford, PA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xa54xn1FoKg&t=3s>