

Scripture

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

¹ 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. ² The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² 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?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ 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.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Devotional

"How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?" the Psalmist asked in Psalm 116 after a near-death experience. *We can't!* It is all a gift through God's unmerited grace.

Is there anything we can do? Psalm 116:13 says, "I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord." Today, many of us will literally lift up the cup of eternal salvation as we participate in the Lord's Supper (Eucharist = "Thanksgiving"). Proclaiming our thanks to God by our worship and sacramental remembrance is the essential response we can make: "for as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

When Jesus initiated the "Thanksgiving," he began by washing the feet of the disciples and telling them that "servants are not greater than the one who sent them." Jesus made plain that their "Thanksgiving" extended from the intimacy of worship to the living of each day in humble service of those around them.

He concluded, "just as I have loved you, you should love one another." By our worship, serving, and proclaiming, we offer thanks to God, whom we can never repay.

Prayer

All praise and thanks to you, Almighty God, for you have created us, redeemed us, and continue to provide for us. As an act of worship and devotion, we offer our witness to the saving love of Jesus. Help us to speak the good news boldly and serve others humbly, so that in all we do, we honor you. Amen.