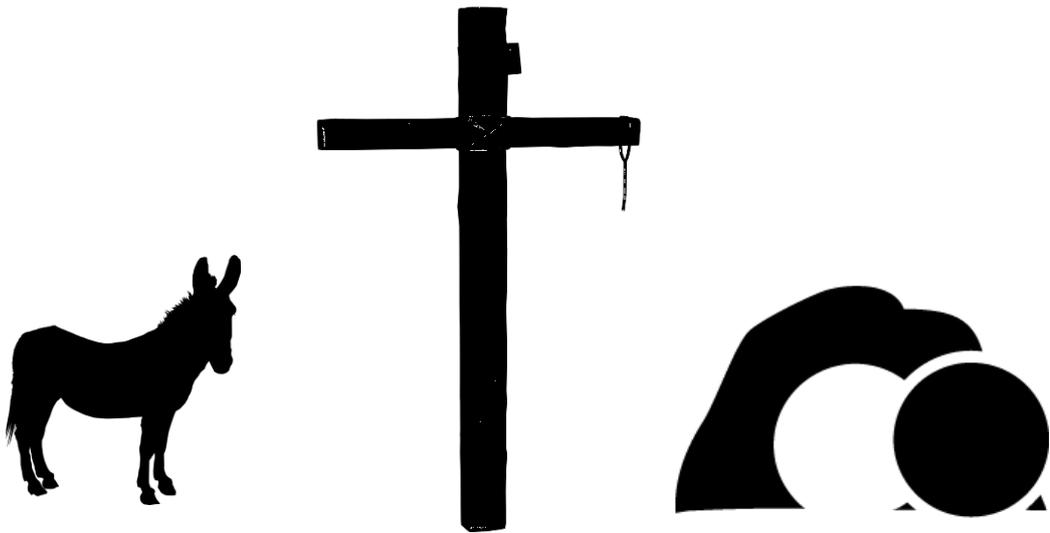


# Symbols of the Saviour

Holy Week 2021 | 28 March – 4 April

## Thursday



Randfontein Baptist Church

[www.rbapchurch.org](http://www.rbapchurch.org)

# Thursday

## Maundy (New Commandment) Thursday

### INTRODUCTION

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, he replied:

 *Mat 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Mat 22:38 This is the first and greatest commandment. Mat 22:39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Mat 22:40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

This day, Thursday, two days later Jesus gave a command that have never been given before, a "new commandment":

 *Joh 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. Joh 13:35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

It is from these verses that this Thursday gets its name. It is called "Maundy" Thursday. The name comes from the Latin word for "command", "mandatum", which is a reference to the new command that Jesus gave in John 13:34-35.

However, there are many activities that took place during this day, notably also the washing of the disciples' feet; the institution of the Lord's Supper, and Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. The accounts of the day in Matthew, Mark and Luke is very similar. These gospels are called the synoptic gospels. The word "synoptic" comes via Latin from the Greek "synopsis" which means, "seeing all together, synopsis". These gospels include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence and in similar or sometimes identical wording. The accounts of the Thursday of Passion week in these gospels are therefore very similar.

John's gospel contains a lot of unique material. For example, all the "I AM" sayings of Jesus are all found in John's Gospel. John's account of the events of Thursday also contains a lot of unique material. The "New Commandment" is also only recorded in John's gospel.

### JESUS' ACTIVITIES CHANGED

During the previous few days Jesus entered Jerusalem each day. This day he remained in Bethany, and only went into Jerusalem a little bit later in the day to celebrate the Passover. The next time he would enter Jerusalem, he would not come out alive. His entry would result in his arrest and his crucifixion.

### FROM BETHANY HE SENT HIS DISCIPLES TO GO AND MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE PASSOVER MATTHEW 26:17

They celebrated the Passover one day early because Jesus was killed on the same day as the Passover lamb.

They went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover in the home of an unknown man:

 *Mat 26:17 On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" Mat 26:18 He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" Mat 26:19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.*

 *Luk 22:10 He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, Luke 22:11 and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'"*

How would they identify the man? It would be easy since men traditionally did not carry water jars. Women usually did that. Men carried water in skins. Jesus said for them to (secretly) follow that man and they would find where the Passover preparations were to be made.

They celebrated the Passover a day earlier.

The Passover lamb was to be killed in the afternoon of the Passover (Exodus 12:6). This was the very hour that Jesus would die.

 *Mat 27:45 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. NIV*

 *Mat 27:45 At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. GWV*

They celebrated it without a Passover lamb!

What is notable that they were celebrating the Passover, but without a Passover Lamb!

## THE LAST SUPPER & THE NEW COVENANT

The Passover is given a new meaning – the New Covenant

 *Luk 22:13 They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the passover. Luk 22:14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.*

*Luk 22:15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. Luk 22:16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." Luk 22:17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. Luk 22:18 For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Luk 22:19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. Luke 22:21 But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. Luke 22:22 The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him." Luke 22:23 They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.*

Jesus was saying that he was changing the relationship. The Passover remembers what God had done in delivering them from slavery in Egypt, physical bondage and affliction. The New Covenant at the expense of his blood remembered the ransom price paid for our deliverance from sin, spiritual bondage to the affliction of controlling sin, rulership by the spiritual Pharaoh, Satan, and reconciliation with God.

He was changing the nature of the relationship between humanity and God. Man cannot keep a good relationship with God. Sin interrupts it too often. The Jewish sacrificial system was an attempt for man to pay some token price for his sin.

### THE EVENING MEAL – A DISPUTE ABOUT WHO WAS THE GREATEST – JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLE'S FEET JOHN 13:5-17

 *Joh 13:2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Joh 13:3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;*

 *Luk 22:24 Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Luk 22:25 Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. Luke 22:26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. Luke 22:27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. The disciples would never eat of it in this way again either.*

The seating arrangements at a Jewish feast was very specific. The tables were arranged in the form of a square with one side open. The host sat in the middle, with the guest of first honour on his right, the guest of second honour on his left, etc.

Jesus washes their feet:

 *Joh 13:4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. Joh 13:5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. Joh 13:6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Joh 13:7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."*

 *Joh 13:8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." Joh 13:9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"*

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." – Here Jesus was referring to Peter that unless he had been cleansed by His blood, Peter would have no part of Him.

 *1Co 6:11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

📖 *Joh 13:10 Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." Joh 13:12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.*

📖 *Luk 22:25 Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. Luke 22:26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. Luk 22:27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.*

📖 *Joh 13:13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Joh 13:14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. Joh 13:15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Joh 13:16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Joh 13:17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*

There is only one class of Christians – the servant class:

- Humility
- Sacrifice
- Service
- 

In society, masters reclined and servants stood around:

📖 *Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

There is only one body, no ruling class and no lower class.

📖 *Mat 23:8 "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers.*

## THEY START THE MEAL AND JESUS PREDICTS JUDAS' BETRAYAL

Judas sat at the table with Jesus' blood money on his person.

📖 *Luke 22:4 And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. Luk 22:5 They were delighted and agreed to give him money. Luke 22:6 He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.*

📖 *Luke 22:21 But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. Luk 22:22 The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him." Luke 22:23 They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this. Mar 14:19 They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?"*

📖 *Joh 13:23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Joh 13:24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." Joh 13:25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Joh 13:26 Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon.*

📖 *Mat 26:23 Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. Mat 26:24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." Mat 26:25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you."*

### Prophecies

📖 *"Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me." (Psalm 41:9)*

📖 *Psa 55:12 If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him. Psa 55:13 But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, Psa 55:14 with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.*

### Judas leaves

📖 *Joh 13:27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, Joh 13:28 but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Joh 13:29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. Joh 13:30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.*

## THE NEW COMMANDMENT – MANDATUM, HENCE MAUNDY THURSDAY

Judas is absent

📖 *Joh 13:31 When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. Joh 13:32 If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. Joh 13:33 "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. Joh 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. Joh 13:35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

## JESUS PREDICTS THE DISCIPLE'S DESERTION AND PETER'S DENIAL – Luke 22:31-32, Matthew 26:31-35

📖 *Luke 22:28 You are those who have stood by me in my trials. Luke 22:29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, Luke 22:30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Luke 22:31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. Luke 22:32*

*But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*

📖 *Luke 22:33 But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."  
Luke 22:34 Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."*

- HG Wells, "a man may be a bad musician, and yet be passionately in love with music". No matter Peter's shortcomings, he was passionately devoted to Jesus.

#### Warnings about the coming persecution:

📖 *Luke 22:35 Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered. Luke 22:36 He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. Luke 22:37 It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfilment." Luke 22:38 The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords." "That is enough," he replied.*

#### Jesus comforts his disciples & promises the Holy Spirit – John 14:1-16:33

- Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled; John 14:1-14
- The Promise of the Helper; John 14:15-26
- The Gift of Peace; John 14:27-31

#### The farewell / upper room discourse - John 15:1-16:33

- Joh 14:31 but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.
- Jesus the True Vine (On the Way to the Garden); John 15:1-8
- Remaining in My Love; John 15:9-17
- The World's Hatred; John 15:18-25
- The Witness of the Helper; John 15:26-27
- On Persecutions; John 16:1-4
- The Work of the Helper; John 16:5-15
- Sorrow Turned to Joy; John 16:16-22
- Prayer in the Name of Jesus; John 16:23-28
- Prediction of the Disciples' Flight; John 16:29-33

#### **THEY LEAVE TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES**

📖 *Joh 14:31 but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave?"*

📖 *Matt. 26:30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

📖 *Luke 22:39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him.*

Zechariah 14 indicates that this is where the messiah (Jesus) will be when he returns, that his feet will touch the Mount and that it will split into two, from east to west, allowing the people of Jerusalem to escape a battle that will be raging in Jerusalem.

📖 *Zec 14:2 I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it... Zec 14:3 Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. Zec 14:4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. Zec 14:5 You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. ... Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. ... Zec 14:7 It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime—a day known to the LORD. ... Zec 14:12 This is the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.*

### JESUS WITHDRAWS AND PRAYS

📖 *Mat 26:36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." Mat 26:37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.*

📖 *Luke 22:41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed,*

### THE HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER

- For himself – John 17:1-4
- For his disciples – John 17:5-19
- For all believers – John 17:20-26

### JESUS SURRENDERS TO HIS FATHER'S WILL

### LUKE 22:39-45

Jesus' Prayer for Himself (Gethsemane); Matt 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1

The space in Jerusalem was very limited, so the wealthy had private gardens on the mount of Olives, and Jesus went there to pray in someone else's garden.

*Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. Luke 22:44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. Luke 22:45 When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. Luke 22:46 "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."*

- In prayer, we surrender to do God's will.
- In the garden of Gethsemane, Adam disobeyed the Father. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus surrendered His will in obedience

 *Rom 5:19 And just as all people were made sinners as the result of the disobedience of one man, in the same way they will all be put right with God as the result of the obedience of the one man.*

#### **ON THE SET OF THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST:**

"Judas' Conversion"

One actor who converted from being a self-proclaimed "angry atheist" was Luca Lionello, the actor who plays Judas. Near the end of production, Lionello accepted the film's title character as his Lord and Saviour. "He asked for confession," Bartunek explained. "Apparently he had been completely transformed by the experience. He baptized his children, sanctified his marriage and came back to the Church."

#### **SONG: A NEW COMMANDMENT (I GIVE UNTO YOU)**

In addition to calling Mel Gibson "a horrible sinner," Caviezel has claimed he's been blackballed by Hollywood for playing Jesus. In fact, he's recalled Gibson trying to talk him out of it only moments after offering him the controversial role. "He said, 'You'll never work in this town again,'" Caviezel told a congregation at First Baptist Church of Orlando. "I told him, 'We all have to embrace our crosses' ... We have to give up our names, our reputations, our lives to speak the truth."

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End of Holy Week: Day 5 – Thursday

Be sure to look out for Good Friday tomorrow at [www.rbapchurch.org](http://www.rbapchurch.org)