

MEDITATION: WASHING OF THE FEET

(from the eyes of peter)

in front of me
and said
peter, put your feet
inside this basin
I want to clean
your feet

now every eye
in the room
was focused on us

then peter said:
jesus,
what are
you doing?
has the pressure
of these days
gotten to you?
what's wrong?
you're our master
only servants wash
other people's feet
i can't let you
wash my feet
this is not your work

jesus saying to peter:
why has it been so hard

for you to realize
that we are all equal?

jesus, said peter
you have a calling
people respect you
you are looked upon
as a leader

as i was looking
into jesus' eyes
i could tell
he was serious about
washing my feet
he looked at me
and smiled
lighting up
the whole room

jesus grabbed
hold of my feet
now feeling
the warm water
as he cleaned the dirt
off my feet

what was happening?

the one i respect
more than any
other person
is washing my feet

jesus,
i want you to know
that i want to be like you
more than anything else
in the world
i will never forget
this moment of you
cleaning my feet
and doing it
with such love

i also want to learn
to wash feet
to be a foot washer
and not to seek after
the delusion of fame
and glory
but to learn
every day to stoop down
to do this simple task
of serving others

Holy Thursday

Cycle C | April 17, 2025

WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

I remember over 19 years ago, my last dinner and holiday with my family because it was on the same day. Back then, I was just a teenager and I didn't care about anyone but myself. Now that I look back, I see how wrong I was for not caring for the people I love and how took it all for granted. I now understand a lot in life and I'm still learning a lot. I know if Jesus was washing my feet, I would tell him how much I am grateful for him and if I can wash His feet next because I now treat people the way I want to be treat.

Over the years, I've learned how it's not just about me. Others have feelings as well. I always look at how people help others without wanting anything in return. Those are people with great hearts and who really care for others so I do my best every day to try to be that person. And if Jesus would wash the feet of someone like me then that shows how much He cares and loves someone like me. I would want to return the favor to show my appreciation for Him and so that He knows I love Him.

- Benito, who is in a California State Prison.



Art by John August Swanson

INTRODUCTION

During Lent we have focused on what is important in our life. As we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are invited to choose life over death.

What are the good things I miss in my life? Who are the people in my life that really give me love and life?

The death and resurrection of Jesus show us that we too have the ability to find life in the darkness of our life.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Lord,
Through Jesus, we know that life and love triumph over death and destruction. Help us to choose the path that leads to life. Guide us in our thoughts, words, and actions and give us strength to follow your will.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

R. Amen.

REFLECTION: What do I say to Jesus while he washes my feet?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Lord,
Through your example of self-giving love and simple action of washing feet, help us to follow your example of serving others and bring your light into the lives of those we meet.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

R. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel: John 13:1-15

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well." Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean." So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WASHING OF THE FEET OR HANDS

Christ washed the feet of those who respected him and looked to him as a wise teacher. Jesus tells us to do as He has done, and wash each other's feet out of respect and love.

PRAYER

Lord, as we wash these tired feet, grant that we may also wash away all hatred, sadness, and anger so that we may follow and serve you. Amen.



Fr. Mike washes the feet of the youth at Sylmar Juvenile Hall.

PRAYER ACTIVITY: "WASHING THE HANDS OF MY ENEMY"

NARRATOR: This story takes place in the waiting room at White Memorial Hospital. **FROGGY** is from THE HILLS and **PUPPET** is from THE RIVERS. **FROGGY** and **PUPPET** are from rival neighborhoods, and they don't get along. These enemies are both in the hospital for a checkup recovery for gunshot wounds. For 2 months, both of them have been working at Homeboy Industries. Even though they haven't bumped heads with each other, you can feel the hate and tension between them. The doctor rushes into the waiting room to tell **FROGGY** something unexpected.

DOCTOR: Froggy, your homeboy has been shot and is in the operating room. He needs type AB blood right now!

FROGGY: I have type B blood, *ese*.

NARRATOR: The Doctor knows Puppet could help out and turns to Puppet. Puppet stands up.

PUPPET: Yo Dawg, I'll give him some blood. I got type AB blood.

NARRATOR: Froggy looks at him tripping out. Puppet leaves the room. He comes back a half hour later. There is blood on his hands from a vein that popped while giving blood.

PUPPET: Damn homie! I can't move my hand.

NARRATOR: Puppet tries to get the water basin to wash his hands.

FROGGY: What's up, *Perro*? Let me give you a hand with that.

NARRATOR: Froggy gets the water basin and a towel for Puppet. Puppet starts washing his hands.

FROGGY: Gracias for doing that for my homie. If he lives, it will be because of your blood.

PUPPET: During these two months with us enemies working together at Homeboy Industries, I kept thinking that while we were growing up, we were brainwashed to hate each other.

FROGGY: What do you mean?

PUPPET: I mean here we spend all our energy killing our raza – people we went to school with and grew up with, we end up killing. Working with Father G, none of this makes sense.

FROGGY: Damn homie, I've been thinking the same thing. I thought when I went out on my first mission and took someone out, I thought I would feel good because I earned my respect, but instead I had nightmares ever since, and I don't feel *firme* about it.

PUPPET: When I saw this blood on my hands, I was glad I was using it for good. I kept thinking that banging for the barrio would take away the pain, but it has only brought more. My childhood was so messed up, my step pops beating me for no reason. I used to see blood on the walls from the beating he gave my *jefa*.

FROGGY: I guess we all carry around deep wounds and scars. We think that by doing crazy things we are going to feel better, but we are only lying to ourselves.

PUPPET: *Serio* homie, I never took the time to think about it, but you are right.

FROGGY: I feel that with you Puppet saving my homie's life, I see how lame it is to see you as my enemy. When I return to work tomorrow, I know I will see you as my friend. It feels weird telling you this, but I know it's the truth. Maybe the real enemy is not some other *vato* from a different barrio but the system that never gives us a chance in life.

NARRATOR: Froggy and Puppet shake hands. THE END.

