

**MAUNDY THURSDAY****ST PETERS ANGLICAN CHURCH BUNDOORA****Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026****Fr. Stephen Monsiegnur****Readings:** Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 / Psalm 116:1-2, 11-18 / 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 /  
John 13:1-17; 13:31<sup>b</sup>-35**Theme:** *Unbreakable Love***Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14**

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>“This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. <sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. <sup>12</sup>I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>“This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

**Psalm 116:1-2, 11-18*****Thanksgiving for Recovery from Illness***

<sup>1</sup> I love the Lord because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

<sup>2</sup> Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

<sup>11</sup> I said in my consternation,  
“Everyone is a liar.”

<sup>12</sup> What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?

<sup>13</sup> I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord;

<sup>14</sup> I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

<sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful ones.

- <sup>16</sup> O Lord, I am your servant;  
 I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
 You have loosed my bonds.
- <sup>17</sup> I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
 and call on the name of the Lord.
- <sup>18</sup> I will pay my vows to the Lord  
 in the presence of all his people,

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

#### ***The Institution of the Lord's Supper***

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### **John 13.1-17; 13.31<sup>b</sup>-35<sup>1</sup>**

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. <sup>2</sup> The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup> got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' <sup>10</sup> 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.' <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.' <sup>12</sup> 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?' <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. <sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> 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." <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

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<sup>1</sup> [www.epray.com.au](http://www.epray.com.au) (NRSV)

## SERMON

History often remembers the final words of great leaders—moments when time is short, stakes are high, and every sentence matters. They call us to attention, rally us toward the mission, and inspire us with their authority. Tonight’s scriptures place us in such a moment. In the upper room, the night of his arrest, Jesus chooses not a speech of power or strategy; he does not rouse us with aggression, but an act of gentleness driven by love. Jesus, the one who promised salvation, becomes our servant. After a Lenten season of repentance, self-examination, and turning again toward God, we arrive at this night and witness what divine love looks like in action.

From the beginning, God has shaped His people through remembrance. In Exodus, we read of Israel receiving instructions for the Passover meal—a meal eaten in haste, with sandals on and staff in hand, marking the night God delivers them from bondage<sup>2</sup>. This urgent act of liberation becomes a perpetual remembrance, a story retold so that each generation knows who God is and who they are called to be and the urgency with which they are to act.

Paul echoes this pattern of remembrance when he recounts Jesus’ words at the table: “Do this in remembrance of me”<sup>3</sup>. The meal becomes not only a memorial but a participation in Christ’s self-giving love. Every time we break the bread and share the cup, we proclaim a love that pours itself out for the world.

John’s Gospel brings us even closer to the heart of that love. Jesus, knowing “his hour had come” and *loving His own* “to the end”<sup>4</sup>, kneels to wash the disciples’ feet. This is not symbolic humility—it is the posture of a servant, one who is so humble that even the sole of another’s foot is above him. It is the posture of God. To let ourselves accept such truth is uncomfortable. Peter’s resistance mirrors our own discomfort with grace. What do I mean? Well, who, having witnessed Jesus’ actions, continues thinking, there is no way they will let anyone here wash their feet? Accepting love that stoops low requires vulnerability. Yet Jesus insists that unless we receive this love, we cannot share it.

Throughout Lent, we have been learning again how to re-receive what is ours through baptism. We have reflected, confronted our pride, our impatience, and our reluctance to be changed. Tonight, Jesus shows us what the journey has been leading toward: a life shaped by service. “I have set you an example,” He says, “that you also should do as I have done to you”<sup>5</sup>.

Then comes the new commandment—new not because love is unfamiliar, but because the measure of love has changed. “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another”<sup>6</sup>. This is love that endures betrayal, denial, fear, and failure. This is love that costs something. This is love that transforms.

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<sup>2</sup> Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

<sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

<sup>4</sup> John 13:1

<sup>5</sup> John 13:15

<sup>6</sup> John 13:34

The psalmist reminds us that gratitude flows from deliverance: “I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice”<sup>7</sup>. Our response to God’s mercy is called to be a life poured out in thanksgiving, service, and compassion.

So how do we love as Jesus loved?

We begin where Jesus began—by kneeling. By choosing humility over status. By serving without expecting return. By tending to relationships, especially the difficult ones. By lifting the unseen, the weary, the vulnerable.

This Holy Week, let Christ’s example shape your steps. Let His love guide your hands. Let His humility form your leadership. See the demands of the week not as a chore but as a new baptism in Christ.

Let us pray,

Jesus, you love us to the end. Shape our hearts to love boldly, serve humbly, and lead with grace. Lord, make us worthy of your great love. Amen.

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<sup>7</sup> Psalm 116:1