

Maundy Thursday

Confession/Prayer:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer

Reading:

Tonight, we will remember how the Lord loved us to the end, loved us so much that he took our sin upon himself. You will find yourself being drawn into the story of how he entered the darkness in our place, and you will discover how that makes you more willing to enter other people's darkness, to serve them as Jesus has taken the form of a servant—indeed, the form of a slave—to free us and purify us and bring us into his family forever. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will hold no terrors for you, because you know that at their heart lies a greater promise than the world has ever known. We all need washing tonight. No one of us is less in need of his cleansing than another. When we come to his table we are not divided into an A list and a B list. It is one table, one gift, one Lord, one faith, one baptism. Do not go away without opening your heart to his love for you, his service to you, his purifying grace so freely offered, and his transforming power for your new life, beginning at this very moment.

Fleming Rutledge, *The Undoing of Death*