

The Events of Holy Thursday - Maundy Thursday

The church has many traditions and practices for this day. I am not so much interested in these traditions and practices - important as they may be. My primary interest and purpose is in the tracing the footsteps of Jesus on this day. Incidentally Lent ends on Holy Thursday at sunset, not on Easter Sunday.

A word on the name Maundy Thursday: Traditionally in the Church, this day is known as Maundy Thursday. The term **Maundy** comes from the Latin word *mandatum* (from which we get our English word *mandate*), from a verb that means "to give," "to entrust," or "to order." The term is usually translated "commandment," from John's account of this Thursday night. The reference is to John 13:34 "*Mandatum novum do vobis dicit Dominus, ut diligatis invicem, sicut dilexi vos*": "I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you."

It is a very complex task of putting a sequence to the many interwoven events and discourses and yet remaining true to what is recorded in the Gospels. As a result, the chronology here will be rough in certain places. I will make no attempts to smooth out these wrinkles. This is expected when we are attempting to put together the accounts of four different authors who wrote with different purposes and from different perspectives. Harmonization of the Gospels has always had its challenges. The things that I cannot harmonize, I always put in the category of "not fully understanding it yet." I am amazed at how many of these things appear to come together when I spend time in the Scriptures.

The approach: Presenting a Chronology of the Events and Citing the References of the Discourses. This is possibly the best way of getting a flow for the events.

The Events include:

Setting the Stage: [Matt 26:1-16](#) - Possibly events of the night before

1. The Preparation for the Passover Meal ([Luke 22:7-13](#)) – Earlier on in the day
2. The Eating of the Passover Meal with His Disciples ([Luke 22:14-16, 24-30](#))
3. The Washing of the Disciple's Feet; ([John 13:1-20](#))
4. The Prediction of Judas' Betrayal ([Matt 26:21-25](#))
5. The Prediction of Peter's Denials ([Luke 22:31-38](#))
6. The Institution of the Lord's Supper ([Mark 14:22-26](#))
 - The Farewell Discourse ([John 14:1-16:33](#))
 - The Priestly Prayer of Jesus ([John 17:1-26](#))
7. The Prayer and Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane ([Luke 22:39-46](#))
8. The Arrest of Jesus and Forsaken ([Mark 14:43-52](#))
9. The Trial of Jesus – the Ecclesiastical Trials
 - a. First Trial ([John 18:13-14](#))
 - i. Peter's Denials ([John 18:15-27](#))
 - b. Second Trial ([Matt 26:59-68](#))
 - c. Third Trial ([Luke 22:66-23:1](#))
10. The Suicide of Judas ([Matt 27:3-10](#)) cf. [Acts 1:18-19](#)

The Roman Trials: ([Luke 23:1-25](#)) cf. [Jn 18:28-19:16](#) –It is now morning therefore, these took place on [Good Friday Morning](#)