



Thursday of the Mysteries

(The Washing of the Feet)

THURSDAY OF THE MYSTERIES

THE WASHING OF THE FEET

Twelve chairs are set aside for those whose feet will be washed. They are arranged in two rows of six chairs facing each other. A more solemn chair is provided for the Celebrant.

A pitcher of water, a basin, and towel are prepared.

A priest (or deacon) who is able to sing well is assigned to sing the Gospel.

The washing of the feet is done in four stages. It begins with the three people on the right of the Celebrant and concludes with the last person on the left side of the Celebrant and this person represents Peter.

The Washing of the Feet begins at the Gospel.

Washing of the First Group

SIT

At the words “And during supper Jesus...”, the Celebrant rises, removes his cope, and ties a towel around his waist. He then kneels before the first person, and washes and dries his right foot. He does the same to the second and third person. After he finishes, he removes the towel, puts on his cope, and is seated.

Priest/Deacon:

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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.

The first verse of the Hymn “On This Night” is then sung.

On This Night

Syriac: *qoom faowlos 3*

Verse 1.

On this night, our Lord Jesus Christ
perfected the signs of the past.
With the Twelve, he met in the Room;
he humbled himself in their sight.

Jesus, Lord of hosts,
angels sing your praise.
Lord God, you bent down,
and you served the Twelve.

Christ showed them this most humble way
that they might, like him, humbly serve.

Washing of the Second Group

The same procedure occurs for this second group.

Priest/Deacon:

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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.

The second verse of the Hymn "On This Night" is then sung.

On This Night

Syriac: *qoom faowlos 3*

Verse 2

Together the Twelve ate with Christ.
To teach them, our Lord Jesus rose.
He then tied a towel around his waist
and bent down to wash all their feet.

Jesus, in your love,
you washed Judas' feet,
though you knew his heart
and what he would do.

We praise you, O Lord Jesus Christ.
Your great love endured every pain.

Washing of the Third Group

The same procedure occurs for this third group.

Priest/Deacon:

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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.

The third verse of the Hymn "On This Night" is then sung.

On This Night

Syriac: *qoom faowlos 3*

Verse 3

To Peter our Lord spoke these words:

"My will is that I wash your feet."

But Peter, the Head of the Twelve,
was troubled by his humble Lord:

"Master of the world,
fear has seized me now!
If you wash my feet,
I will be consumed.

I cannot let you do this, Lord,
since you are a bright burning flame."

Washing of the Fourth Group

The same procedure occurs for this fourth group until the Celebrant reaches the twelfth person.

Priest/Deacon:

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him.

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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.

When the Celebrant reaches the twelfth person, representing Peter, the following dialogue takes place.

Priest/Deacon:

Jesus came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

Peter: “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Priest/Deacon:

Jesus answered,

Cel: “You do not know now what I am doing
but later you will understand.”

Priest/Deacon:

Peter said to him,

Peter: “You will never wash my feet.”

Priest/Deacon:

Jesus answered,

Cel: “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.”

Priest/Deacon:

Simon Peter said to him,

Peter: “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”

Priest/Deacon:

Jesus said to him,

Cel: “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.”

Priest/Deacon:

“For he knew who was to betray him;
for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

The Celebrant kneels and washes and dries the right foot. After he finishes, he removes the towel, puts on his cope, and is seated. The final verse of the Hymn is then sung.

On This Night

Syriac: *qoom faowlos 3*

Verse 4

“O Simon, be not obstinate.
You cannot resist what I will.
Learn from me this most humble way.
O Peter, I ask that you learn.
 Draw near and be washed.
 Do as I have done.
 Be not proud of heart.
 Pride was Satan’s fall.”
Christ bent down and then washed his feet.
He told them to serve one and all.

STAND

Priest/Deacon:

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them,

Cel: “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord —and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you.

The Celebrant concludes by blessing the congregation with the Book of Gospels, saying:

Cel: This is the truth! ☩ Peace be with you.

Cong: Praise and blessings to Jesus Christ, our Lord and God,
for giving us his words of life.

Homily

SIT

The Divine Liturgy continues with the Creed on **page 748** of the *Book of Offering*

