

FEETWASHING



When the disciples began to argue about which of them was more important, Jesus decided to make his lesson plain: Taking a towel and a basin of water, this great teacher knelt beside the first disciple—and did not stop until, like a lowly servant, he had washed the feet of each one there.

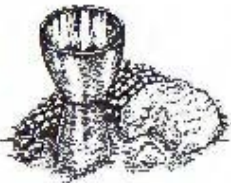
By including the service of footwashing in our love feast, Brethren imitate Jesus' actions and honor his lessons. No person ought to be greater than another, Jesus taught. Love has no need to prove status or position; love simply gives—and keeps on giving.

A symbolic, cleansing act, footwashing prepares us for the meal and communion that follow. It reminds us that, in God's sight, everyone needs loving attention, and everyone can offer that service to others. First we humbly accept attention and care from the one who washes our feet. Then we in turn wash someone else's feet. After each act of footwashing, the two people embrace and share a simple phrase of blessing.

In receiving this emblem of God's cleansing grace, we remember that as followers of Jesus, we can help distribute God's blessing to others—through steady, loving service, symbolically washing the feet of the world.

HOLY COMMUNION & AGAPE MEAL

In an act of great love, Jesus gave his life for ours. The Brethren, as Jesus' followers, love God and each other—and take that love into the world. Twice a year, the members West Green Tree celebrate what the earliest Christians called agape: the out-flowing love that seeks not to receive but to give.



Jesus taught us this practice by sharing with his disciples a last, loving meal the night before he died. He washed the disciples' feet, ate supper with them, sought to draw them closer into the fold of his love, and offered them the symbolic bread and cup.

During love feast, we repeat these simple, meaningful acts. After reconciling any discord among ourselves, we lovingly wash each other's feet, and then enjoy a meal together. Quietly we share communion, the bread and the cup that remind us of Jesus' great gift; we renew our commitment to follow his example of sacrificial love.



Text for today: "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, 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*.'" (1 Cor. 11:23-24, *NRSV*). **Bible readings for today:** Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (24); John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

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Do this in
remembrance

West Green Tree Church of the Brethren
"My Beloved"

Love Feast March 29, 2018

Welcome Pastor Mick Allen

My Beloved Praise Rose Hibshman

"Who Would You Die For?"

(From Rom. 5:6-8; 2Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; 1Pet. 2:24; 1John 4:9-10)

Hymn "Move in Our Midst" No. 225

Examination

Scripture 1 John 1:8-10 Marlin Hibshman

Call to Confession and Self Examination

One: Can we truly say that we make Jesus first in our lives? Do we take up our cross for His sake or for our own? We are not worthy of Your love because we sin against You and others. We are not worthy to come to the wedding feast and yet You are gracious and say, "Come." Speak but the word and our souls are healed.

Time of Silence

Am I at peace with God?

Am I at peace with my brothers and sisters in Christ?

My Beloved Cody Schwanger

"Are You Experiencing Many Trials?"

(Psalm 34:15,17-19; Psalm 50:15; Isaiah 41:10,13,18-20; Isaiah 43:1-3; 2Pet. 2:9)

Hymn "Be Still, My Soul" No. 263

Agape Meal

My Beloved Jeff Schwanger

"Come to Me"

(Psalm 89:16, 100-4; Isaiah 55:1-7; Mat. 11:28; John 7:37; Eph. 3:12; Heb. 4:16, 10:19-22)

Prayer of Blessing June Kolp

One: Father in Heaven, we thank You for all Your generosity, for the harvest and for this time together. We ask for blessings upon this food and those who prepared it. We pray that the meal will strengthen our fellowship and nourish our bodies so we may do Your work and Your will in this world. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

Hymn "O Worship the King" No. 33

Footwashing

Scripture John 13:1-17 Julie Arndt

Homily "Our Savior Kneels Down" Pastor Mick Allen

The Washing of Feet

Hymn "Here in Our Upper Room" No. 508
(Additional hymns played during footwashing)

Holy Communion

My Beloved Cody Schwanger

"Never Forget the Sacrifice"

(Ezec. 36:26-27; John 1:12, 3:16, 6:28-29; Acts 4:12; Heb. 7:22, 10:9-10; 1John 3:2-3)

Scripture 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Clint Arndt

Hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" No. 174

Invitation Shawn O'Brien

One: All who are in love and community with your family in faith, who do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who humbly place your trust in Jesus and desire His help to live a holy life... draw near to God. Receive these sacred symbols to your strength and comfort through the One who freely gave His all on our behalf.

Blessing of the Elements Shawn O'Brien

Partaking of the Bread:
This bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

Partaking of the Cup:
This cup which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

My Beloved June Kolp

"I Have Something Important for You"

(1Chron. 28:20; Ps. 33:21-22, 89:33, 130:5-7; Isa. 49:23; Jer. 29:11; Mk 5:36; Rom. 3:3-4, 15:13)

Hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" No. 429

Benediction Shawn O'Brien