

Our Lenten Devotionals feature reflections from *The Road Back to God* by Larry Neeb.

Holy Thursday, April 1, 2021

**John 13:31-35** **31** *When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. 33 "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

***Today, the Church commemorates the institution of the Lord's Supper. What better way do we have for remembering than by participating in that sacrament and resolving to find ways for Christ-like service to others? Amen.***

**"A New Commandment"**

Christ knew that tomorrow he would give up his life for the world. Notice that he does not spend his last hours thinking and talking about himself, long soliloquies on the meaning of suffering or the extent to which he was going for the sake of others. He made no attempt "to get things in order" before his end. Instead, he forgets himself and serves others in the washing of the feet of the disciples, no task too lowly for the servant who was also Lord.

Then, in bread and wine he offers himself. This act would be remembered as one of service, repeated with thanksgiving by the community of saints around the world. It would be his visible legacy – an example of how much he was willing to give for others.

Those who confess Christ will remember the example their Lord set on this Holy Thursday and seek to become disciples and servants for the world.

**--Larry Neeb**

Friends –

Holy Thursday is one of my favorite celebrations in the Christian year. I am reminded that Jesus, his disciples, and probably others have gathered to celebrate the Passover, a holiday during which Jews remember and celebrate God sparing their oldest sons in Egypt.

Jesus marks this celebration by turning the tables of leadership and washing the feet of those who have been following him. And then, he challenges them to do likewise, to go forth and love one another through service.

--Pastor bea