

Exodus 12:1-4;11-14/John 13:1-7;31b-35

In John Chapter 12, we saw Mary anointing Jesus with very expensive oil. While everyone else who was around complained about that, Jesus interpreted that as an anointing for the day of his burial.

John 13:1ff introduces us to the narrative of Jesus' glorification. Jesus' glory is being fully revealed through his death, resurrection, and ascension. Unlike in the synoptic gospels (Matthew 26:17-25), Mark 14: 12-25) and (Luke 14: 7-13) whereby the last supper was a Passover meal, in the gospel of John Jesus is the lamb, the Passover lam, the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

It was on that Pascal meal that Jesus then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and wiping them with a towel that was wrapped around his waist. The act of feet washing was a gracious act of hospitality for guests who have walked dusty roads to their destinations. However, it was a duty reserved for Gentile slaves and woman. In some cases, the disciples would also wash their Rabbi's feet but that was not mandatory.

So, in performing this act, Jesus broke the set social bearers and as well the set gender barriers. But of much importance Jesus practically responded to the question which bothered the disciples for a long time, "Who will be the greatest in the kingdom of God?" Throughout his ministry, Jesus acted contrary to the set standards by the rulers of the world. The rulers of the world load it over the subjects, but Jesus would work for his disciples. Kings' feet were washed by the subjects but in Jesus the master is washing the disciples' feet.

Maundy Thursday is a call for us to be humble servants in God's vineyard and become servants of all. Amen.