



Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Rite of Footwashing

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026 6:00 p.m.

917 Pond Road, Loudon, TN 37774
865.986.2390

www.episcopalloudon.com



GLORIFYING GOD BY

REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

Good morning! We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today. Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you are here for the first time (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and ministries; we're happy to help you find your spot!

Our services follow The Book of Common Prayer, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, instead of this order of service booklet, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the blue Hymnal 1982. A hymn noted "S-xxx" is part of the service music, found at the front of the hymnal, appearing before the regular congregational hymns begin. For example, S-280 (The Gloria) is found before hymn 1.

To learn more about Resurrection, check out www.episcopalloudon.com,
email us at office@episcopalloudon.com, or
find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a visitor card or email office@episcopalloudon.com to subscribe to our weekly church email, the Parish Tidings, for all the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook:
facebook.com/episcopalloudon.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Word of God

Prelude

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn *I come with joy to meet my Lord*

Hymnal 304

Celebrant Blessed be God, who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Collect for Purity

All **Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie

Hymnal S-91

Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Lector A reading from the Book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1, 10-17 *Dilexi, quoniam*

BCP 759

Lector We will read the Psalm responsively.

Congregation reads the bold lines.

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication,
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his servants.

O LORD, I am your servant;
**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.**

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the LORDs house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Lector and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Second Lesson: I Corinthians 11:23-26

Lector A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

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."

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Please stand as able.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love (verses 1-3)

Hymnal 602

The Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “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.” For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “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. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sequence Hymn

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love (verse 4)

Hymnal 602

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges

Rite of Footwashing

Celebrant The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, “Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done.”

People **Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

Celebrant I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

People **Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

Celebrant

By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

The altar party and any others who feel led will follow the example of Jesus and his disciples by washing one another's feet at the front of the church.

Those not participating in the footwashing are asked to join in singing the following hymn.

Hymn during the Footwashing

God is love, and where true love is

Hymnal 577

The Prayers of the People

Common Worship, Intercessions for Lent

Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, kneeling, or sitting as able.

Intercessor We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves to him. Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world. May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for the leaders of our nation and our world, especially for the President of the United States and cabinet officials, members of Congress, and Supreme Court justices, as well as the Tennessee governor and state legislators, that they may lead with mercy, wisdom, integrity, and compassion. May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighborhoods and communities. We pray especially for our neighbors here in Loudon County and our state of Tennessee. May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick. We pray for

People **Jeanette, Walter, Jim N., Vicky & Dave, Carolyn, Lee R., the McAfee family, Marshall S., Brenda B., Jackie C., and all who are in pain or distress; and all who are suffering due to oppression, war, gun violence, or natural disasters.**

Intercessor May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their rooms. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith. Especially we hold Tammy in our minds. May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory. Lord, meet us in the silence,

People **give us strength and hear our prayer, here and in eternity. Amen.**

Hold a moment of silence.

Celebrant God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come close to you in penitence with prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline, and when we fall by our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through

Jesus

Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

Continuing in a posture of prayer, we will hold a moment of silence for individual, silent confessions before the priest leads us into the words of corporate confession.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you**

**in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Absolution of Sin

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sin through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Please stand as able.

Celebrant May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

Brief Announcements

The Holy Communion

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2a

Offertory Music

Thou, who at thy first Eucharist

Hymnal 315

Doxology (Sung)

Hymnal 380, verse 3 only

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Celebrant For all things come from you, O Lord

People **and of your own have we given you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 2

Enriching Our Worship

Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts)

We chant these lines responsively.

Celebrant The Lord be with you,

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

Hymnal S-124

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Celebrant Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

Hymnal S-146

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread..
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and a period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Hymn

Hymnal S-161

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Music *Now, my tongue, the mystery telling*

Hymnal 329

We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable. Remain seated, until the usher directs you forward to the communion rail. After receiving communion, return to your seat by the side aisle. so that traffic flows one way.

If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so. If you prefer not to receive communion, you may come forward to the altar rail along with those receiving communion.

Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you prefer a blessing.

Stripping of the Altar

The members of the altar party will silently and solemnly remove all items from the altar, in preparation for Good Friday. Those in the congregation will observe a time of silent reflection and prayer during the stripping of the altar. Once the stripping of the altar is complete, we will depart in silence.

Note that there is no blessing, recessional hymn, or dismissal in the Maundy Thursday liturgy, because in the Episcopal-Anglican tradition we see the Triduum ('The Three Days' of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) as one continuing act of worship.

Depart in silence.

Observance of Good Friday, April 3

We invite you to return tomorrow, Good Friday, for the Stations of the Cross outdoors on the church grounds (weather permitting) beginning at 11 a.m.

Then our Good Friday liturgy begins inside the church at 12 noon. The Good Friday service will include the Solemn Collects, reading of the Passion Narrative, and time for Veneration of the Cross.

A Reflection for Maundy Thursday

A blessing is not finished until we let it do its work within us and then pass it along, an offering grounded in the love that Jesus goes on to speak of this night.

—from “Holy Thursday: Take a Blessing,” *The Painted Prayerbook* by Jan Richardson

As this season has been unfolding, we’ve been talking about the wild language of Lent, noticing the words that have tugged at our attention, the vocabulary that has helped us make a map through these wilderness days. Now the language intensifies, and the vocabulary takes on an urgent edge as it traces a path through these days of horror and of hope. Moving into Holy Week, we listen close and more closely still to the words being said now, as one does before a death.

Holy Thursday draws us to the table, in the company of Jesus and the disciples as he begins to speak his final words on this side of his dying. The disciples will not understand everything Jesus has to say, will not be able to comprehend fully the import of what he is telling them, but his words will sear themselves into their hearts nonetheless. These are the words that will return to the disciples later, in that bewildering time known as after. These are the words that will comfort them and also stir their courage for the path that waits for them still. But for now, they, and we, are at the table. As the night unfolds, we will see that the word at the center of Jesus’ vocabulary is this: Love.

In John’s Gospel, in what’s known as the Farewell Discourse (John 13:31-17:26), Jesus will speak the word love thirty-one times. In these final hours before his death, the word will ring repeatedly, a potent echo of the moment when Jesus rose from the Jordan River, the waters of baptism dripping from him, and heard himself named Beloved. This night, he will give this word to his friends, passing along to them the love he received at a moment he needed it most.

But Jesus does not begin there. As he works to convey what he most wants his companions to know, he does not start with spoken words. Instead, he takes a towel, a basin, water. He begins to wash the feet of his friends, the drenching itself another echo of his baptism and his naming as Beloved. Perhaps more than anything Jesus could say this night—and he goes on to say quite a lot as he opens his heart at the table—this washing speaks to the hearts of the disciples. In this sacramental gesture, we see Jesus’ vocabulary in action. Word made flesh.

The love that Jesus enacts and speaks this night is an extraordinary gift and grace. But, as the disciples will hear Jesus say at the table, such a grace is not reserved solely for them. They are to pass the gift along: to enact this word, to live this word, to give flesh to this word in this world. For I have set you an example, Jesus tells them as he returns to the table after washing their feet, that you also should do as I have done to you (John 13.15). This is my commandment, Jesus will say to them a little later, as they linger at the table, that you love one another as I have loved you (John 15.12).

As we approach the table this week, how will we listen for the love that meets us there? How will we allow ourselves to receive the gift and the grace of this love? When we leave the table, how will we carry this love with us? How will we enact this love, giving it flesh for the life of the world?

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Parish Announcements, Prayers & Thanksgivings

Join us for Easter Brunch with Bishop Brian!

9 a.m. (between services), Sunday, April 5

Please drop off your items in the parish hall, ready to serve, by 8:45. If you plan to attend worship at 8, please do! Just drop off your item(s) before going to church, together with a note if needed regarding re-heating instructions.

Sign up sheets for brunch items, as well as set-up and clean-up help, are in the Parish Hall.

Questions? *Diane Van Koughnett, 865-458-6000.*

Holy Saturday Holy Hike

Aspire Recreation Area, Clinton

Hike starts at 10 a.m. sharp.

Lunch follows (optional)
at The Pearl Restaurant at Aspire.

Sign-up sheet for hike and for lunch
is on the table in the Parish Hall.

Questions? *Contact Andy Hadjian.*

Our parish prayer list

Jeanette, Jim N., Walter, Vicky & Dave,
Carolyn, Lee R., the McAfee family,
Marshall S., Brenda B., Jackie C.

Continuing prayers for

Brian E., Jim; Daphne; Rosemary O.;
the Hentchel family; Pat; Claire; Sandy;
Rob & Sherry; Cheri; Jane;
Shannon; Jim; Mel; Wayne; Diana N.; Jack;
Ashley; Raynella; Ed & Jean; Kim E.; Joe;
Beverly; Grace; Virginia; Betty Anne; Janey;
Johnny; and Karen H.

Pray for our vestry leaders

Class of 2026: Alice A., Dianna S., Jenny L.

Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H.

Class of 2028: Holly P., Tom R., Bonnie S.

Wardens: Bonnie S. and Mark H.;

Treasurer: Sally Leonhard

April Birthdays

Thomas Fiebke April 1

Claire Boyles April 2

Carl Bye April 4

Oralee Adams April 15

Art Stewart April 25

April Anniversaries

Carolyn & Chip Parker April 30

For Your Calendars

THIS WEEK

April 5	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	
Acolyte	Judy Hadjian	Drew Hawley	Altar Guild The whole team
Euch. Minister	Mark Hennes	Bonnie Smith	Flower Guild Rosemary Kitts & Dianna Stimpson
Lector	Holly Pate	Keytha Graves	Organist Kate Lee
Ushers	Jerry Ploeger	Garry Lucas & Jan Hanna	Celebrant/ Preacher The Rt. Rev. Brian Cole
Coffee Hour	Easter Brunch	Easter Brunch	Assisting The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges
Video	n/a	Mark Blakley	Offering Counters Alice Anderson & Monty Ross
Chancellor	Peggy Rogers Jenny Lucas		

NEXT WEEK

April 12	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	
Acolyte	Jack Lefler	Monty Ross	Altar Guild Janey Coombes & Judy Egan
Euch. Minister	Holly Pate	Bonnie Smith	Flower Guild Dianna Stimpson
Lector	Peggy Rogers	Liz Berg	Organist Jedediah Dahl
Ushers	Jen Hennes	Keytha Graves & Drew Hawley	Celebrant The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Cal Van Koughnett	Virginia & Bill Perry	Preacher Mark Smith
Video	n/a	Bob Cantine	Offering Counters Alice Anderson & Ginny Tolbert
Chancellor	Diane Van Koughnett	Nelda Griffith	

Holy Week Schedule

Friday, April 3

Stations of the Cross, 11 a.m.
on the church grounds

Good Friday worship, 12 p.m. (inside church)

Saturday, April 4

Holy Saturday Holy Hike, at Aspire Rec. Area (Clinton), hike begins at 10 a.m.

Great Vigil of Easter, 6 p.m. (at the church)

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday worship, 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Brunch between the services in the Parish Hall.

Coming Soon @ Resurrection

Saturday, April 18

Earth Day Fest, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday, April 23, 10 a.m.

Wildflower Hike, Frozen Head State Park

Saturday, April 25

Men's Group. 9 a.m., Parish Hall

Email Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Becky Bridges:
rector@episcopalloudon.com or (865) 986-2390.

For urgent pastoral needs after hours: (865) 242-9240

Email Senior Warden Bonnie Smith:

seniorwarden@episcopalloudon.com

Email Junior Warden Mark Hennes:

juniorwarden@episcopalloudon.com

Art & Scripture Reflection

Ford Madox Brown. *Jesus Washing Peter's Feet*, 1852–56, Oil on canvas, Tate Museum; N01394, © Tate, London / Art Resource, NY.

Peter accepts the washing of his feet, but he does not seem to do so comfortably. His tightly clasped hands, furrowed brow, and troubled visage, suggest an uneasy state of mind, even if his initial demurral ('Lord, do you wash my feet?'; John 13:6) has been overcome. Judas to the left (identified by a bag of coins, being the one who kept 'the money box'; John 12:6, and his traditional red hair) looks on coolly—but the other disciples seem as unsettled as Peter, and the one with his head in his hands especially so.

What is discomfiting to Peter is presumably just that Jesus should take on a task usually performed by a slave (to use the proper translation). And from the low, close-up perspective Ford Madox Brown has chosen, we focus on these two main 'actors,' but also appreciate that the job of washing a dozen pairs of dusty feet is no mean feat—or rather is a distinctly mean feat. The kneeling Christ, however, bends intently to his task, with the determination which will lead him quite shortly to go out to sacrifice his life. This act of humility and service is both the opening scene and a prefiguration of that later one.

In accordance with ideals championed by some members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood with which he was associated (albeit not as a member), Brown portrays the scene with a naturalness of action and emotion—and in his first attempt at the work, Christ, who 'laid aside his garments' to wash his disciples' feet (v.4), was depicted in a loin cloth, his legs and torso as bare as they would be at his crucifixion.

But as Peter could barely tolerate that the one he called Lord should so humble himself, no more could Brown's contemporaries tolerate the depiction of Christ as a naked servant, and so—bowing to public taste—Brown added to the composition the much fuller green robes which Christ now wears. The utter humility of the servant Lord was as intolerable to his later as to his earlier followers.

Theological Reflection Source

Michael Banner. 2022. 'Intolerable Humility,' in *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* ed. by Ben Quash. (London: The Visual Commentary on Scripture Foundation). [Accessed 24.3.2026] <https://thevcs.org/washing-disciples-feet#intolerable-humility>
