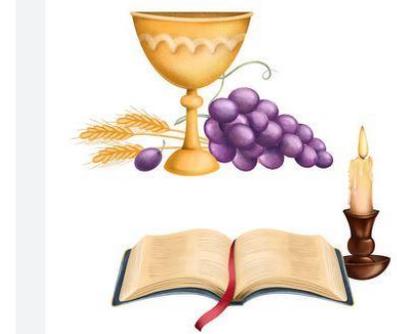


Jesus' Parting Gifts

When we give special gifts, we hope the carefully chosen gift will be well received and is meaningful to the recipient. On Jesus' last night with His disciples, He gave them beautiful parting gifts. He gave them His Supper: the forgiveness of sins and His presence in the lives of humanity until the end of time. He gave them the New Covenant, which allows the Holy Spirit to provide the motivation and the power to fulfill the Father's will. And He gave them directions on what to do next. He washed the feet of His disciples, demonstrating what it is like to be a servant to others. Everything was all done in love – for them to grow as followers and to equip them for the ministry of enabling others.



Jesus did this because He knew the hour had come for him to leave this earthly world. When he came to Simon Peter, the disciple initially resisted that his master wanted to wash his feet. Jesus said to him, *“Unless I wash you, you have no part with me”* (John 13:8). Jesus said, *“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them”* (John 13:14-17).



Did you catch the last sentence? *“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”* We are called to serve God by serving others.

On Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This life-changing gift allows us to be forgiven and redeemed. Jesus defeated death and the devil. Jesus' earthly ministry was complete, and He equipped us to minister to others. If we follow Him, we are to live as He did so that others may come to know Him too. We are to love others as Jesus first loved us. We are to serve others as Jesus did humbly. And Jesus blesses our efforts so that others will come to faith. What a lasting gift Jesus gave to you and me! He is risen. Halleluiah. He is Risen, indeed.

Question: How have you received Jesus' parting gifts to you?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord. You taught us how to live, love, forgive, and be forgiven. All are free gifts, so we can be free. We pray that we will share the Good News with others so that they can receive the life-changing gifts from Jesus. Amen.