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MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday or **Holy Thursday** (also known as **Great and Holy Thursday**, **Holy and Great Thursday**, **Covenant Thursday**, **Sheer Thursday**, and **Thursday of Mysteries**, among other names) is the day during [Holy Week](#) that commemorates the [Washing of the Feet](#) (Maundy) and [Last Supper](#) of [Jesus Christ](#) with the Apostles, as described in the [canonical gospels](#).

It is the fifth day of Holy Week, preceded by [Holy Wednesday](#) and followed by [Good Friday](#). "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, or commandment, reflecting Jesus'

words "I give you a new commandment." The day comes always between March 19 and April 22, inclusive, and will vary according to whether the [Gregorian calendar](#) or the [Julian calendar](#) is used. Eastern churches generally use the Julian system.

Maundy Thursday initiates the [Paschal Triduum](#), the period which commemorates the [passion](#), [death](#), and [resurrection of Jesus](#); this period includes Good Friday and [Holy Saturday](#), and ends on the evening of Easter Sunday. The [Mass of the Lord's Supper](#) or service of worship is normally celebrated in the

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evening, when Friday begins according to Jewish tradition, as the Last Supper was held on the feast of [Passover](#), according to the three [Synoptic Gospels](#)

DERIVATION OF THE NAME MAUNDY

[Maundy](#) is the name of the Christian rite of footwashing, which traditionally occurs during Maundy Thursday church services.

The English word [maundy](#) in the name for the day is derived through [Middle English](#) and [Old French](#) *mandé*, from the [Latin](#) *mandatum* (also the origin of the English word "mandate"), the first word of the phrase "*Mandatum novum do*

vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos" ("A new commandment I give unto you: That you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another.") This statement by Jesus in [chapter 13 of the Gospel of John](#) by which Jesus explained to the Apostles the significance of his action of washing their feet. The phrase is used as the [antiphon](#) sung in the [Roman Rite](#) during the Maundy ([Ecclesiastical Latin](#): "Mandatum") ceremony of the washing of the feet, which may

be held during Mass or as a separate event, during which a priest or bishop (representing Christ) ceremonially washes the feet of others, typically 12 persons chosen as a cross-section of the community. In 2016, it was announced that the [Roman Missal](#) had been revised to allow women to participate as part of the 12 in the Mandatum; previously, only males partook of the rite.

Others theorize that the English name "Maundy Thursday" arose

from "maundsor baskets" or "maundy purses" of alms which the king of England distributed to certain poor at Whitehall before attending Mass on that day. Thus, "maund" is connected to the Latin *mendicare*, and French *mendier*, to beg. A source from the Shepherd of the

Springs, Lutheran Church likewise states that, if the name was derived from the Latin *mandatum*, we would call the day Mandy Thursday, or Mandate Thursday, or even Mandatum Thursday; and that the term "Maundy" comes in fact from the Latin *mendicare*, Old

French *mendier*, and English *maund*, which as a verb means to beg and as a noun refers to a small basket held out by maunders as they maunded. Other sources reject this etymology.¹