

# THURSDAY, APRIL 9

## HOLY THURSDAY



John 13:1-9 ♦ Psalm 22:16-21

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. *John 13:3-4*

### Love

He knew what He was doing. It was Thursday, hours before He would endure the very worst to accomplish the very best. He had just a few hours left with His disciples before He would pay for their sins.

What did He do? He put Himself last. "Thoughts of self and safety scorning, Knowing how the day would end" (*LSB 445:1*).

Jesus took on the role of a lowly servant. He washed the filth off of the feet of His disciples. And He gave them a command: love.

After all, we are to love God and love our neighbors (*Luke 11:27*). In a word, love.

"By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (*John 13:35*).

But Jesus' love was far more than a demonstration of love. He made it possible for us to love. Forgiven and free and filled with the Spirit, we truly can love as God's servants. Just as Jesus served undeserving others, we, too, can serve and love.

*O Lord of love, You command us to love,  
and You redeemed us to love. Send Your Spirit  
that we may point others to Your love. Amen.*