



The Holy See

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Rebibbia Women's Prison in Rome

Holy Thursday, 28 March 2024

[Multimedia]

In this moment of the Supper, two episodes attract our attention. Jesus' washing of the feet: Jesus humbles himself, and with this gesture he lets us understand what he had said: "I came not to be served but to serve" (cf. *Mk* 10:45). He teaches us the path of service.

The other — sad — episode is the betrayal of Judas, who is not capable of pursuing love, and then money and selfishness lead him to this bad thing. But Jesus forgives *everything*. Jesus *always* forgives. He asks only that we ask for forgiveness.

Once, I heard an elderly woman, wise, an elderly grandmother, of the people... She said, "Jesus never tires of forgiving: we are the ones who tire of asking for forgiveness". Today, let us ask the Lord for the grace not to grow weary.

We all always have small failures, large failures: each person has their own story. But the Lord awaits us always, with open arms, and he never tires of forgiving.

Now we will make the same gesture Jesus made: the washing of the feet. It is a gesture that draws attention to the vocation of service. Let us ask the Lord to make us grow, all of us, in the vocation to service.

Thank you.

L'Osservatore Romano, Weekly Edition in English, Fifty-seventh year, number 14, Friday, 5 April 2024, p. 4.

Copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione - Libreria Editrice Vaticana