



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.
