**Easter message**

**Series Overview:** It’s a one off! All about Easter!

**Week Overview:** Explain the beginning of the Easter story and significance. The story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet and how this is symbolic for the ultimate act of service that Jesus displays by dying on the cross. He does this because he loves you!

**Outline:**

**Grab the Room (Intro):** Jump in with the calendar visual and how I use a calendar

**Tension (what’s the struggle):** Why is Jesus washing the disciples’ feet? That’s just weird!

**Text:** John 13:4-17

**THP:** Jesus died for you!!

**Supporting Points:** The continuation of the calendar and explaining Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. These days matter because the act wasn’t complete until Sunday.

**Application (call to action):** In the middle wash feet and at the end Salvation

*Red – Scripture*

*Blue – Personal Story*

*Green – Prop*

**THP/Main Points – Bold**

Welcome Northview Students! I am so glad you are here!

My name is Emmie and I am a senior at Carmel High School! I am a student leader here at Northview Students and can I just tell you that I LOVE our church! I am honored to be up here tonight and am so excited for this message!

I wanted to start off with a question! Do any of you use a calendar to plan out your schedule? Because I do! And if you have ever met me then you know I love organization! I have an agenda just for homework, a giant agenda for my entire life and an online shared family calendar! So, you can tell that I like calendars! Well tonight, I brought a calendar with me! And we are going to use it to experience Easter in a week!

Calendar Slide \*blank\* (needs to be from Sunday to Sunday)

I want to walk you through what many refer to as “Holy Week''. This is the week leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

Let’s start on Sunday, this is the day that Jesus enters the town of Jerusalem. This day is often referred to as Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday, the people in the city lay palm branches down at His feet. He rides a donkey over the palm branches while doing this He is honored and worshiped. Calendar Slide “Palm Sunday”

The next day, Jesus clears the temple in rage, telling people who were manipulating God’s House for money that they’d turned the House of the Lord into a “den of thieves'’. Pretty bold words from Jesus right there! Calendar Slide “Temple”

On Tuesday, Jesus goes up to the mount of Olives while the Pharisees plot to kill him. Calendar Slide “Mount of Olives”

Then Wednesday comes, and well nothing. The Bible doesn’t actually tell us what Jesus did on Wednesday. If I had to guess, maybe he was eating a nice meal with some friends or visiting family. But I guess we won’t know until we get to Heaven ha-ha. Calendar Slide X

But something happens on Thursday that’s rather… fascinating. Thursday is where I want to camp out today. There were two main events that took place on Thursday. The first is Passover and following the traditional Passover dinner Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane with his disciples to pray. The event we are leaning into tonight is the first one, Passover.

Have you ever thought about the beauty and significance of Passover? Why does it even matter?

Like, we talk about it every Easter Sunday but what does it really mean. Is it more than just a group of people eating together?

Well tonight, I have an answer to those questions! Let’s start with what is Passover: Passover is a traditional Jewish holiday celebrating the story of Moses freeing the Israelites from Egypt. This marked their journey into the promised land. You see, the people of Israel were held captive for a long time from the Egyptians. And Moses was able to convince their leader, Pharoh, to let the people go only after 12 plagues. The last of these plagues was the death of a first born son. To protect the Israelites sons, God instructed them to kill a lamb and paint its blood over their doorway. This lamb served as a sacrifice instead of their son. And it worked! After this last plague, he let them go! People today still celebrate Passover and the freedom it gave the Israelites. It is celebrated by a feast with specific foods that all have deeper, symbolic meanings and in between each item there is a Bible passage to read.

Now what makes it beautiful and significant? What makes it beautiful is the freedom! This freedom is SO important to people all over the world! The freedom it gave the Israelites all those years ago was beautiful. They had been in captivity for a long time and this freedom was deeply desired. This began a new season for the Israelites. A season of seeing God direct their steps and lead them into the Promised land.

And lastly, why does Passover matter? Well, it matters because Jesus modeled how to disciple others and taught many impactful messages that night! One example of this was the washing of the disciples’ feet. This was an out of the ordinary action, but first let’s see what happens.

Open your Bibles to John 13:4-17. If you don’t have a Bible, you can follow along on the screen. I highly recommend that you bring your Bible because there is nothing more powerful than holding the Word of God in your hand! And if you don’t have a Bible then we would love to give you one so find an adult member at the end of the night and they will give you one!

Let’s dive in! John 13:4-17

***4*** *So he got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around himself.* ***5*** *Next, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet and to dry them with the towel tied around him.*

***6*** *He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”*

***7*** *Jesus answered him, “What I’m doing you don’t realize now, but afterward you will understand.”*

***8*** *“You will never wash my feet,” Peter said.*

*Jesus replied, “If I don’t wash you, you have no part with me.”*

***9*** *Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.”*

***10*** *“One who has bathed,” Jesus told him, “doesn’t need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you.”* ***11*** *For he knew who would betray him. This is why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”*

***12*** *When Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer clothing, he reclined again and said to them, “Do you know what I have done for you?****13*** *You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am.* ***14*** *So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.* ***15*** *For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you.*

***16*** *“Truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master,[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13&version=CSB#fen-CSB-26636b)*] and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him.* ***17*** *If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.*

So, I mentioned before we read this passage, that this was out of the ordinary. Well, it was the job of the lowliest servant in the household to wash people’s feet. During the time of Jesus, you must understand that they wore uncomfortable sandals, walked on dirt roads where animals pooped and sat down on the floor to eat because that was the cultural norm of the time. So, you can see why it was the job of the lowliest servant. I mean their job is to literally touch donkey poop and whatever else is on the feet of the people entering, no thank you blah! However, on the night of Passover, there was no servant there. This context puts Peter’s reaction into perspective as he was stunned and almost upset that Jesus was washing their feet.  Let’s read that part again!

I want to pause for one second and look at verse 15, Jesus says that ***15*** *For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you.*

Wash basins/buckets, towels, student volunteers, gloves if students want, band play a song

Jesus is calling us to do the same as he did! And here at Northview students, we strive to be like Jesus. So right now, let’s do it! Let’s serve one another! I’m going to have a group of volunteers come up to the front. We are going to take a moment and these amazing students are going to wash your feet. In this moment, as awkward as it may be, I want you to lean in and experience what the disciples did. I highly encourage you to take a moment and fully experience this. So, the band is going to come up and play and when you feel led to make your way to any SLT member.

There is one volunteer per row. Each person has a bucket full of water, a towel, and gloves. They go up to the person on the end and ask, “may I serve you by washing your feet?”. if the person responds “yes” then wash their feet for about 30 secs on each foot- pretty fast. Then ask the next person. If they say “no” then say, “God loves you” and move on. At the end, leaders wash each other’s feet at the front of the stage.

I hope that each of you had the chance to experience the love that these people have for you. I mean they willingly chose to wash your feet! They all represent Jesus in the way they love and serve you. They fulfill the command in Jesus lesson for all of us.

If we relate this back to the Bible story, we can see that the washing of Peter and the other disciples’ feet is symbolic for the washing away of sins after death. Jesus tells Peter that you only have to be washed once and that is it for the rest of your life. In other words, Jesus is saying that once you have accepted him into your heart once, you are saved for the rest of your life! What amazing news is that my friends!

As well, Jesus’ act of servitude as he washes the feet of his disciples is symbolic of his servitude to us when he dies on the cross. Jesus willingly goes to die for you. For you! Even though you mess up or don’t have perfect grades. He dies for you! And leading up to his death is brutal. He is beaten, whipped, mocked and they placed a crown of thorns on his head. I know you hear this all the time around Easter, and it is so just glance by, but take a moment and really think about it. Jesus was beaten. He was beaten so hard he was bleeding. Jesus was whipped. He was whipped so much that the flesh on his back was torn off. He was mocked. They screamed insults at him. Things like “If you really are the king of the Jews then heal yourself” and on and on they went. They pressed a crown of thorns deep into his skull. Then he had to carry a heavy wooden cross up a hill and by that time his body couldn’t even do that. He fell and someone else had to help him. Then he was nailed to the cross. Nails went through his hands and feet. Breaking his hand muscles and gushing with blood. And he did it ALL for YOU!! FOR YOU!

**Jesus died FOR YOU!!!**

(pause) He died for you!

Jesus shows us the ultimate act of service, more than just washing other feet, when he dies for us. His sacrifice is all we need to have eternal life!

If you have never had the chance to accept Jesus into your heart, to accept this man who did all these things for you, then I want to give you the chance to do that tonight. But first, I must finish the story. Because right now Jesus is hanging on that wooden cross dead. But that’s not the end of the story!

Calendar Slide appears \*no new info

Let’s pull up the calendar from earlier and see where we are. So the last time we checked we were at the start of Passover dinner. So after Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, he eats with them. He teaches them about communion and then goes with some of them to the Garden of Gethsemane. It is here, after praying intensely that the Pharisees arrest Jesus.

Calendar Slide Passover and Garden of G

Then Friday dawns. The Pharisees try Jesus and say that he is blasphemous. They take him to see Caesar who wants nothing to do with the issue so he lets the public decide between freeing him and freeing a criminal. The public chooses to free the criminal leading us to the beating, whipping and mocking I talked about earlier. That night, Jesus breathes his last breath and dies on the cross. And it is there that Jesus died for you! That night they lay his body in the tomb which is guarded by Roman soldiers.

Calendar Slide Cross

Saturday comes and goes. No one can visit Jesus because of the Sabbath and the guards stay put in front of the tomb.

Calendar Slide stone circle

And then Sunday! The day that we still celebrate today! The tomb was open and Jesus walked right out! After giving his life as a living sacrifice and showing us what it means to be a true servant, Jesus LIVES! He lives!

And because he lives, we have hope today!!! There are people all around the world who celebrate freedom in Christ because they believe he rose again!

Slide with a collage of people around the world gathered in significance

And because he rose again, we are all washed free from your sins! Just like when Jesus washed the disciples’ feet! All the dirt in our lives is washed away!! And our lives won’t be perfect, and our struggles won’t suddenly go away but we will all be forever clean because Jesus’ blood has washed away our sins. And when you get to heaven, we will all experience eternal life which is better than anything we can imagine here on earth!

So tonight, I want to give those of you who have never accepted Christ an opportunity to bring him into your life! Eternal life is waiting for YOU, because Jesus loves YOU! And his action shows how much he loves you because he was willing to give his life for you!

If you remember, at the beginning of the message we talked about Passover. Pull up the calendar

And during the original Passover, the Israelites killed a lamb and painted its blood over their doorways. This was a sacrifice so their sons would live during the plague. In the same way, Jesus spilt his own blood the cross as a sacrifice for us so that we would live. His sacrifice gives us eternal life!

Right now, I want to give you the opportunity to choose salvation. To choose eternal life! But instead of doing it the traditionally where everyone closes their eyes, tonight I want to do it with everyone’s eyes open. Salvation is a declaration to Jesus that He is your Lord and Savior. This is a personal decision, but we all want to celebrate with you as you join the family of Christ!

So I ask you tonight, do you want to accept Jesus into your heart? If the answer is yes, then raise your hand! Be proud of this amazing decision you made! Don’t focus on the other people but focus on declaring your heart of the Savior of the world.

If you raised your hand, then say this prayer with me (pray)

Can we celebrate these students who just gave their life to Christ! (Applause)

Thank you