

SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

SERMON FOR
MAUNDY THURSDAY



SERVANT

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SERMON

¶ Jesus gathered with a small group of friends. They were in an upper room in Jerusalem. There in that place, Jesus showed what a servant he is as he washed his friends' feet and gave them his body and blood in bread and wine. This meal—this Last Supper—was fraught with tension as human betrayal, arguments and denial were met by divine love, service and sacrifice.

Before we get to that meal, let us first consider another meal. Unlike the Last Supper which was a real historical event, this other meal comes to us from a classic work of fiction—Fyodor Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*. At a point in the book, readers hear about two of the Karamazov brothers sitting down for a meal at a restaurant. They were brothers; yet, they were far from friends. Their relationship was marred by betrayal, arguments and denial. Their family was a mess. And it had been a mess for some time. As a result, the relationship between these two brothers was a complete mess.

However, that night was different. That night they were making small—but important—steps toward reconciliation. That night they were doing something they hadn't done in a very long time: Sitting together at a table, sharing a pleasant meal and having a conversation together as if they were friends.

It began with awkward—somewhat forced—conversation about what to order. They conversed about menu options. After a while, the pleasantries gave way to a deeper conversation. Amid all the family drama, these brothers also had deep ideological differences. The older brother