**THURSDAY APRIL 14 – HOLY WEEK [C]**

**Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.**

**Not only should love be until the end, one should grow in it at the highest of perfection that is without perfection, for the perfection of love is the eternal love with which the Father loves us. Jesus, being true God and true Son of the Father, loved us with all the love of the Father, until the gift of his entire life. When one falls from love, when one does not grow in it, one turns the faith in Christ in an ensemble of rituals not giving salvation, since salvation only comes from the love that is made obedience until the death and to the death of cross. Now let us compare Jesus and an angel of his Church. Jesus loves until the annihilation of himself. The Angel of his Church is fallen from love. In him, love is turned into a great rituality: “Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil 2, 6-11)**

**"To the angel of the church in Ephesus, write this: " 'The one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks in the midst of the seven gold lampstands says this: "I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate the wicked; you have tested those who call themselves apostles but are not, and discovered that they are impostors. Moreover, you have endurance and have suffered for my name, and you have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: you have lost the love you had at first. Realize how far you have fallen. Repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. But you have this in your favor: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. " '"Whoever has ears ought to hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the victor I will give the right to eat from the tree of life that is in the garden of God."' (Rev 2, 1-7) We must always be vigilant not to fall from love. On this most holy night, Jesus has showed us only how He loves and how far his love can reach: until taking the place of the servants and having the servants in the place of the master. He also commanded his Apostles and, in them, to all his other disciples that he wants one to imitate him in his love: “I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” He loved us giving his life for us and we must also love by giving the life for each other. If our love does not get to give the life for the salvation of the brothers as Jesus the Lord did, our love is either not love at all or it is love not come to its perfection. Our perfection is never similar to that of Christ Jesus. He loved us with all his eternal, divine and human love together. His heart of God has loved us with all his heart of man. We are called to love with all the heart of Christ in our heart.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 13,1-15**

**Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well." Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean." So when he had washed their feet (and) put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.**

**Now, if we are called to love brothers with the heart of Christ Jesus, and the heart of Christ becomes our heart through the faith in the Gospel and in becoming his true body in the baptism, and, moreover, nourishing our heart in nourishing of his one in the Eucharist, how can we think to be able to love brothers in the manner of Christ, if one is not in Christ, if one does not live with the heart of Christ? One can be brother for each other only if we live with the heart of Christ, in obedience to his Word. No longer preaching Christ as the only body in which it is possible to become brothers for each other, we condemn humanity to nourish with sin and therefore with death. Mother of God, help us believe in Christ Jesus.**