

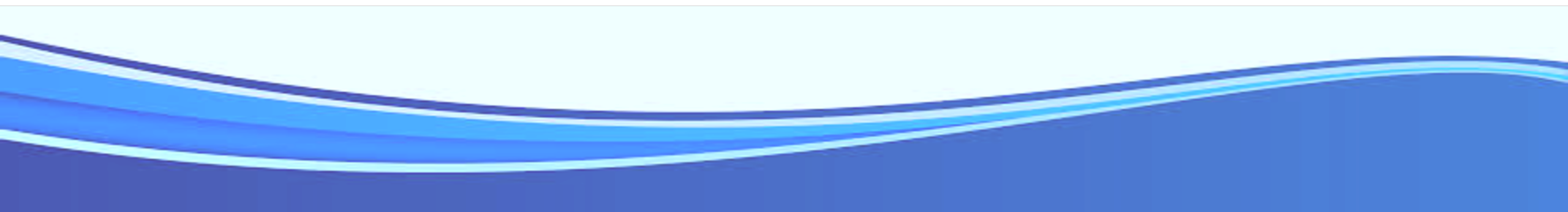
Maundy Thursday Evening 2020

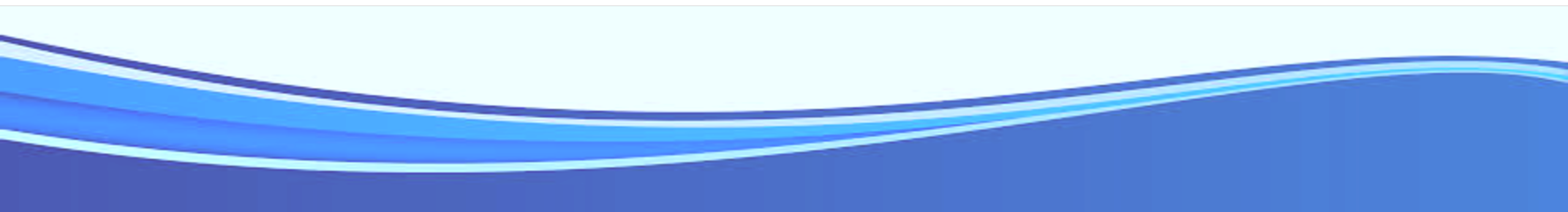
READINGS


Mark ch 14 v 12-26

and

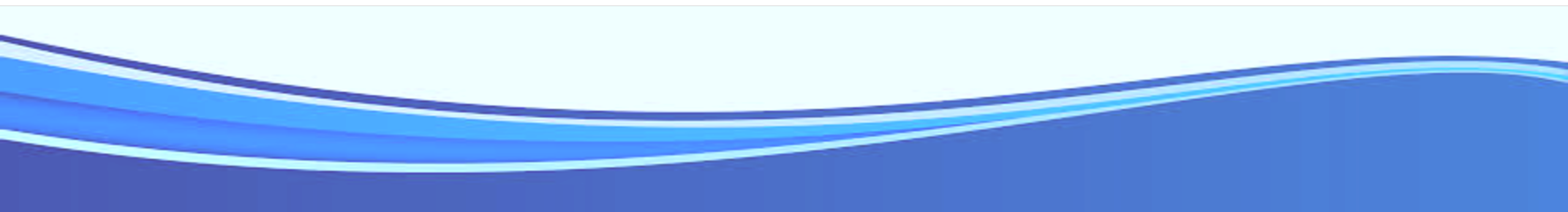
John ch 13 v 1-20

- Traditionally the foot washing makes us uneasy – like Peter nobody is touching our feet –
 - And the shared supper reminds us of our invitation to join with Jesus imperfect though we are
 - The vigil in the Garden, ought to bring out our sympathy – who could stay awake while it is dark and Jesus is off praying?
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- Yet we find there is a clash of emotions here too, for we also learn that they are hyped up enough that adrenalin fuelled Peter wields a sword – catching the servant a blow on the ear – lets hope he cast his nets with more care.
 - It is an almost comic episode aside from the real drama unfolding.
 - Yet it has its serious point - for if the ear is also miraculously healed, why are the Council members and others not then convinced of Jesus divinity?
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- Again we are reminded that this is a story unfolding with a multi dimensional message in it for those who believe, and is as nonsense to those who doubt, as is the whole Jesus story.
 - So what might it be saying to us on Maundy Thursday 2020?
 - That we struggle to stay with Jesus when the going gets tough?
 - That holding to belief and faith are not easy in hard times and Jesus knows and understands?
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- As a further reflection –
- You may want to think more on Peter's story which jumps from sword slashing, would be warrior, to lying at the fireside, disbelieving at the tomb and yet goes on to be called again at the lakeside
- A prayer....



Holy God,

may we have the courage to trust in what You invite us to do: to watch and pray,
to keep vigil with You in time of trouble,
that we may know your will and align ours with You.

Though we are presently necessarily apart, we look forward to sharing again the bread and wine Jesus gifts us;
as we do so remind us of the times we have shared in the past,
our solemn remembrances together of this Last Supper
and enable us not to be afraid
but to go through the dark of the coming days
till Easter dawns again for us

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

