

CELEBRATING HOLY THURSDAY AT HOME

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: In the evening, gather together to celebrate the Lord's Supper and start of the Triduum, the Sacred Three Days of the Church's Year leading to the celebration of Easter. A simple prayer space can be created with a candle, crucifix, and/or an image of the Last Supper, grapes/bread, etc. For the washing of feet, prepare a large bowl/basin, towels, pitcher of warm water, and chair. If the hymn is unfamiliar, you may find it on the internet (example: YouTube), shorten it, or simply move on to the other prayers. A leader should divide up the roles and adjust the service as necessary to make sure everyone is able to participate.

1. Hymn

Refrain: And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day.

I am the Bread of Life. You who come to me shall not hunger; and who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father beckons.

(refrain)

The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this bread, you shall live for ever, you shall live for ever.

(refrain)

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you.

(refrain)

3. First Reading: 1 Cor 11:23-26

Reader: Let us first listen to the words of the Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters:

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

(pause for silent prayer)

2. Introduction

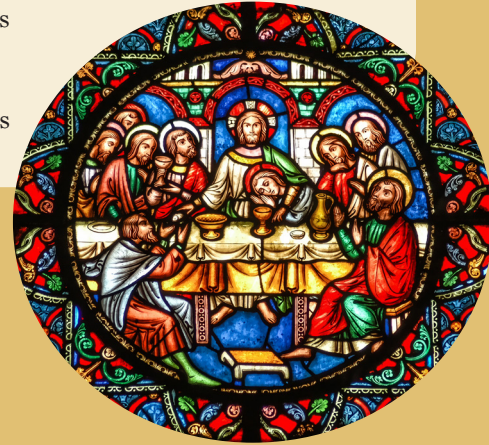
Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

All: Amen

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Tonight we begin to celebrate the three sacred, holy days of the Church's Year, when we remember the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. While we cannot gather with our parish family, we join with our Church family around the world and remember the great love God has for us. Tonight we remember Jesus' sharing of the Last Supper with his disciples and his gift of the Eucharist to them and to all of us. We also remember how he washed the disciples feet as a reminder that we too must serve one another as he served.



3. Gospel Reading: Jn 13:1-5

Reader: Let us listen to the words of the Holy Gospel according to John:

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."

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. The Washing of Feet

Leader: Just as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, let us remember that we are called to help those around us, especially those who are most in need.

The Leader invites others to have their feet washed and to wash each others' feet. After removing shoes/socks, one by one each may be seated and extend their feet over the bowl. This can be done by simply pouring water over the foot/feet and drying with a towel symbolically.

Reader: For all who care for the sick. May the compassion of Christ strengthen them in their efforts to bring healing and hope to others. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For all our friends, neighbors, and others who are lonely. May they remember they are loved and are part of our family in Christ. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: What else shall we pray for?
[Add intentions and prayers.]
For all these intentions,
Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

6. Our Father

Leader: Remember us Lord when you come into your kingdom and teach us to pray as you taught us:

All: Our Father....

5. Intercessions

Leader: As we celebrate the night that Jesus gifted us with his Body and Blood in the Eucharist before he was betrayed, we gather our prayers as one family. Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the Church, especially those who serve in ministry; may all be strengthened to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in these challenging times. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: That through the example of Jesus Christ's service to others, all nations will work to provide for the most vulnerable among us, especially the poor and homeless. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

7. Conclusion

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty, ever-living God, You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility. He fulfilled your will by becoming man and giving his life on the cross. Help us to bear witness to you by following his example of suffering and make us worthy to share in his resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

(All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

Besides the candle, the prayer space can be kept up in the home throughout the evening or prepared for Good Friday. Spend some quiet time as a family in prayer together for the remainder of the evening if possible. Consider beginning your Good Friday fasting and abstaining following the prayer time has concluded.

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