

HOLY THURSDAY FAMILY PRAYER SERVICE

On Holy Thursday, we remember how Jesus instituted the Eucharist and the priesthood. We also hear Christ's invitation to do as he did when he washed his disciples' feet. Before beginning this prayer service, create a prayer space in your house that includes a loaf or piece of bread and a bowl of water and towel.

LEADER: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

LEADER: Lord God, we thank you for the gift of the Eucharist which, even though we cannot receive it at this moment, allows us to share in your eternal life. Thank you for all of our priests who faithfully bring your sacraments to us. We ask that we can learn from your example and joyfully serve the people we encounter each day.

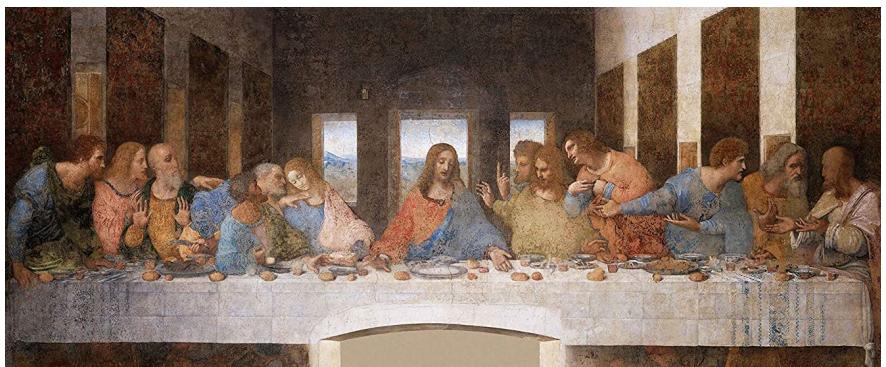
READER: *From the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor 11:23-26)*

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. Thanks be to God

SHARE: Look at the faces, gestures, and postures of the twelve disciples. If you were to put yourself in the picture, which disciple would you be? Or if you do not identify with any of them, where would you be and what would you be doing?



READER: *From the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 13:1-5)*

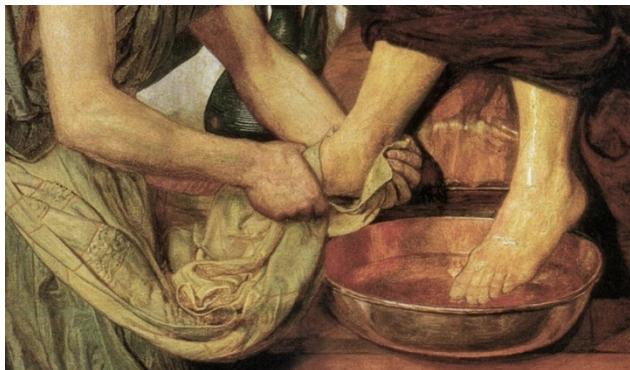
Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything 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.



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WASHING OF THE FEET (OR HANDS)

Have each member of the household remove one shoe. Designate one person to begin by pouring water over someone's foot (or hand) and drying it. After that person's foot has been washed, he or she will then wash the foot of the next person and so on. The last person to have their foot washed will wash the first person's foot. (Michael Card's song, *The Basin and the Towel* can be played as this is being done: <https://youtu.be/OsSLiatlTQ>)



SHARE: What was it like to have your foot (hand) washed? What was it like to wash someone else's foot (hand)? Imagine that the person who washed your foot (hand) was Jesus. Would you have felt any differently?

READER: *From the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 13:12-15)*

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. *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

CALL TO SERVICE

Even though we are confined to our homes, we are still called to imitate Christ and serve our brothers and sisters. Reflect on how Christ is inviting you to serve at this moment. It may include physically being of service to the people you live with; calling, sending a text, or writing an actual letter to someone who needs some encouragement; or simply praying for the sick or others who are in need. Play Richard Gillard's *The Servant Song* for this moment of reflection and then invite whoever would like to share their ideas for how Christ is calling them to serve: <https://youtu.be/MYpH3y4608E>

LEADER: Lord God, we thank you for this time to pray together. We ask for the courage we need to be your servants and to celebrate the joy of your Eucharistic presence in our lives. Together let us pray the words that Christ himself taught us.

ALL: Our Father...

LEADER: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.



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