



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

MAUNDY THURSDAY

9th April 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, today. This evening we remember the Last Supper of Jesus, at which he taught his disciples about humility and service, and gave himself to them (and to us) in Holy Communion. It will be hard to celebrate this feast this year, when we cannot gather around one altar and receive this gift ourselves. More and more on this day we should try to unite ourselves spiritually with our Holy Father, our Bishop and our Priests, who celebrate this Mass FOR US tonight.

Jesus celebrated the First Eucharist at a Supper – a special meal. Our Jewish brothers and sisters still gather to celebrate this meal (the Passover seder) at this time of year in their homes. You might want to use these prayers before a special evening meal, particularly if you are gathered as a family.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

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

All: Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Leader: On this night Jesus gathered with his friends for the Last Supper. It was on this night that he taught them about service, and gave them the gift of his own Body and Blood. Tonight let us pray for our family, our parish and our priest: even though we cannot join together round the altar tonight, we unite ourselves spiritually to the gift Jesus gives us.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may seek to participate worthily in these holy mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

GOSPEL

John 13:1-15

It was before the festival of the Passover, and Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father. He had always loved those who were his in the world, but now he showed how perfect his love was. They were at supper, and the devil had already put it into the mind of Judas Iscariot son of Simon, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, and he got up from table, removed his outer garment and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'At the moment you do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'Never!' said Peter 'You shall never wash my feet.' Jesus replied, 'If I do not wash you, you can have nothing in common with me.' 'Then, Lord,' said Simon Peter 'not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!' Jesus said, 'No one who has taken a bath needs washing, he is clean all over. You too are clean, though not all of you are.' He knew who was going to betray him, that was why he said, 'though not all of you are.' When he had washed

their feet and put on his clothes again he went back to the table. 'Do you understand' he said 'what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.'

REFLECTION

Leader: Tonight is all about giving. Jesus gives himself to his friends and to us. He gives himself first by getting down on his knees and washing their feet – the act of a slave. Then he changes bread and wine into his Body and Blood to give to them. And this all leads to tomorrow, when he will give his life on the cross for our salvation. Jesus is all-giving. He invites us to learn from him, and do the same ourselves. Our world can sometimes be selfish – we who believe in Jesus must put ourselves second and others first, serving them as Jesus did.

A THOUGHT FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS: The friends of Jesus were shocked when he got down to wash their feet – this is something a slave does, not a teacher, or a Master! Jesus is teaching us that everyone can perform acts of kindness. Washing feet is not a big thing to do, just a bit messy and possibly icky! Washing the dishes for mum and dad, washing the car for grandad, washing our trainers or football boots may not be big things, but they can be great acts of kindness! See if you can think of simple things you can do to serve your family as Jesus did!



ACT OF SERVICE

In the Mass of this night the priest now washes the feet of twelve parishioners, as a sign of love and service. You may want to do something as a sign of service – perhaps pause at this moment to lay the table for your supper, each member of the family bringing something to the table. Then recite this hymn together:

All: Where true charity is dwelling, God is present there.

By the love of Christ we have been brought together:
let us find in him our gladness and our pleasure;
may we love him and revere him, God the living,

and in love respect each other with sincere hearts.

Where true charity is dwelling, God is present there.

So when we as one are gathered all together, let us strive to keep our minds free of division; may there be an end to malice, strife and quarrels, and let Christ our God be dwelling here among us.

Where true charity is dwelling, God is present there.

May your face thus be our vision, bright in glory, Christ our God, with all the blessed Saints in heaven:

such delight is pure and faultless, joy unbounded, which endures through countless ages world without end. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Let us pray for generosity in our service of God and others

Leader: Let us pray for our priests tonight, as they celebrate the Mass for us even though we are not there; may they be blessed by God. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: Let us pray for ourselves, that we may keep going in faith, love, hope and kindness until we return to celebrate Mass together in Church. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: Let us pray especially tonight for all who are poor, who most need our acts of kindness and service. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time. It is traditional to take a collection for the poor tonight, so perhaps put some money aside at this moment for a charity like CAFOD or Caritas.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Leader: Lord, we pray: graciously accept this oblation of our service, that of your whole family, which we make to you as we observe the day on which our Lord Jesus Christ handed on the mysteries of his Body and Blood for his disciples to celebrate. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: Loving Father, Jesus is the true and eternal Priest, who instituted the pattern of an everlasting sacrifice and was the first to offer himself as the saving Victim. The night before he died, that is tonight, he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

THANKSGIVING PSALM

Leader: How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name.

All: The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ.

Leader: O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

All: The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ.

Leader: A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people.

All: The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ.

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: Let us pray. Grant, almighty God, that, just as we are renewed by the Supper of your Son in this present age, so we may enjoy his banquet for all eternity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

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

All: Amen.

In Church at this point there is a procession, taking the Blessed Sacrament to the "Altar of Repose." All are invited to "watch and wait" with Jesus for some time. Why not have your Evening Meal now, then sing a hymn and go into the garden for a few minutes, thinking about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and getting ready for Good Friday tomorrow?