

✘ Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship

When we “break bread” together as a church in our worship, we remember that Jesus invited folks to his table as part of his ministry, not just at the Last Supper. This service and meal is a way for all of us to break bread together with whatever we have at our homes in this time when we keep our physical distance. You’re invited to prepare your favorite “comfort food” or simple meal to share with those in your homes and with those over technology if you wish.

Preparation:

- ✘ Prepare a simple meal with some of your family’s favorite foods. Include some bread and wine or juice.
- ✘ Arrange your table with space to have a laptop or phone connect you to other loved ones or friends who are not in the room with you.
- ✘ Set up a bowl, towel, and pitcher of water near your table to wash one another’s feet or hands.
- ✘ Set the table with your meal and a Bible. You may light a candle.
- ✘ Call your group together (and connect over technology).
- ✘ Be prepared to clear your table at the conclusion of the meal.

Jesus used the parable of a great banquet to which all people are invited in order to talk about what the “kin-dom” of God, the family of God, looks like. He said, “Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled.” He often invited the most unlikely guests to his meal-times, confounding the disciples. In this way, he was encouraging a deep love and connection beyond social norms. He knew that we humans need connection and inclusion. Jesus comforts us, saying “you have a place at the table” and Jesus challenges us to make sure we are doing the same – that all people know they are welcome in our hearts, in our homes, in our churches—even if we can’t physically be with each other right now.



✠ The Gathering

Pray together:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(It is difficult in this moment to be distant from those we love and those we are worried about.)

Say: Loving God, be with those we love who are not with us here in this room. We lift up to you the names of those we love who are not with us here.

[Say aloud the names of people you wish were next to you at your table today.]

Say: We also call to mind the people whose names we do not know, but who we know need our prayers and God's comfort.

We Pray:

For those who have lost loved ones
For those who are sick and recovering
For those who are caring for loved ones who are sick at home
For those who are caring for persons in medical care
For those who are separated from loved ones
For those who are feeling alone and isolated
For those who are helping and are so very tired
For those who are struggling to find friends, food, and comfort
For those who are afraid

[TAKE A FEW DEEP BREATHS on behalf of those we do not know and cannot call by name.]



JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET

(Suggestion for kids: Read the Spark Story Bible page 462-463)

[Choose someone to read from the Spark Story Bible, or below]

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

John 13:1-15, 33-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4 got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." 9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." 11 For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

12 After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

33 [Jesus said,] "Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews, so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

WASHING OF FEET or HANDS

Say: "Just as Jesus served by washing the disciples' feet, we remember that we are called to serve others; we remember Jesus' commandment to love one another."

*[At this time, step away from the table to wash one another's feet or hands.
Then, go wash your hands and come together once again at the table.]*

PRAYER AFTER THE WASHING OF THE FEET

Say: "Jesus, You showed us how much You love us and taught us to love You, ourselves, and one another. We pray that all people may live together joyously, giving and receiving love. In your Holy Name, Amen."

BLESSING OVER THE FOOD *(you may use this or another prayer familiar to your family.)*

(Each line is read by one person, and repeated by all)

Holy Comforter . . .	Holy Comforter
We gather in your name . . .	We gather in your name
Invited by Jesus . . .	Invited by Jesus
Bound together with your Spirit . . .	Bound together with your Spirit
in union with each other . . .	in union with each other
Feed our bodies and our spirits . . .	feed our bodies and our spirits
with your comforting presence . . .	with your comforting presence
so that we might be your comfort to others . . .	So that we might be your comfort to others
Bless this food . . .	Bless this food
And break open our hearts . . .	and break open our hearts
And pour out your love . . .	and pour out your love.
Amen	Amen

✠ The Agape Meal Begins

[People serve each other; when all are served, eating begins.]

(During the meal, you may choose someone to read the story of Passover from Exodus 12.)

WE REMEMBER THE PASSOVER

The Passover

Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 2 This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3 Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. 4 If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. 7 They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. 10 You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11 This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you

live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

14 This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

CONVERSATION AT THE TABLE

Ask: “What festivals do we celebrate as a church community? Why are they important?”

CONTINUE EATING

*[When the meal is coming to a close, select someone to read this gospel]
(Suggestion for kids: Read the Spark Story Bible pages 464-467)*

The Passover with the Disciples

Matthew 26:17-29

17 On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” 18 He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; 21 and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” 22 And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” 23 He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” 25 Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

The Institution of the Lord’s Supper

26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” 27 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”



GIVE THANKS

Say: “In this feast of love and comfort, let us give thanks for the things for which we are deeply grateful.”

(Each person speaks aloud one or two things that they are grateful for in this moment.)

[The meal is finished, but reserve some bread and wine to share.]

BLESSING OVER THE WINE (or Juice)

Say: “We also give thanks for the wine and juice at this table. Blessed are you, O God, for its creation and all that it means for us. Bless this drink and pour out your love. **Amen.**”

[A sip of wine or juice is taken by everyone.]

BLESSING OVER THE BREAD

Say: “We gather in your name, bound together with your Spirit in union with each other. Feed our bodies and our spirits with your comforting presence so that we might be your comfort to others. Bless this bread and may it break open our hearts. **Amen.**”

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Say: “Let us pray. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**”

[People share and eat the remaining bread and the wine/juice in their cups.]

THE PEACE

Say: “And now may you shelter not only in place, but in peace. May the peace and comfort of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**”

CLEAR THE TABLE

Segments of this service are sourced from Worship Design Studio by Marcia McFee & a service written by The Rev. Dr. David Gortner, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Coeur d'Alene, ID for the Diocese of Spokane.