

Family Liturgy – Holy Thursday (Year A) Thursday 9 April 2020

Preparing the prayer space

Place a white cloth on the table or floor (white – the colour for Holy Thursday)
Place a cross, bible and candle on it. For Holy Thursday, add other symbols like bread and grapes or images of these. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Gospel story and song
Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
Print out sheet if required



<https://pixy.org/796755/> - free image

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: Today we come together to remember Jesus and to be with him during his last days on earth.

Opening prayer: God of love, we ask you to be with us as we journey with Jesus during his last days on earth. We join ourselves to Jesus and listen to what is being asked of us today in our life and within our family. Help us now to listen to your word to us. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parent/Caregiver: First, let us remember Jesus' washing his friends' feet as a sign of service. Let us be ready to find ways to love and care as Jesus did towards other people. We join ourselves to Jesus and listen to what he is asking of us today.

Prayerfully watch the Gospel story of Jesus washing the feet of his friends – his disciples.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bv5ajWNrnt4> (2 mins)

Parent/Caregiver:

Let us pray quietly and listen to Jesus' message to us.
Let us think of how we can care for and love others and be of service to them.

(pause for a moment)

Let us share with each other, one way of how we can be of service to others and show them we care and love them as Jesus did.

Let us now open our hearts and listen to God's word to us through the story of Jesus' Last Supper.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (22: 14-23)

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table with his close friends. He said to them, 'I have longed to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer! For I tell you, I will never eat it until it is given its full meaning in the Kingdom of God'.

Then Jesus took a cup, gave thanks to God, and said,
'Take this and share it among yourselves.
I tell you that from now on I will not drink this wine until the Kingdom of God comes'.

Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them saying,
'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.'

In the same way, he gave them the cup after the supper, saying,
'This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you.'

'But, look! The one who betrays me is here at the table with me! The Son of Man will die as God has decided, but how terrible for that man who betrays him!' Then, they began to ask among themselves which one of them it could be who was going to do this.

(Gospel text © The Catholic Children's Bible (2013) St Mary's Press, USA)

Prayerfully watch the Gospel story of the first Last Supper
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SigoALSS1R8> (3mins)

Gospel reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder how Jesus' close friends felt sitting at the table with him?

I wonder if all of Jesus' friends were really his friends?

I wonder how Jesus felt during this last meal with his friends?

I wonder what Jesus' friends thought when Jesus said to them,

'This is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me'?

I wonder what Jesus is asking of me through this story?

I wonder when do we hear these words of Jesus at Mass?

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs. (*We respond to the prayers by repeating the words 'Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer'*)

1 We pray for our Church and world leaders: that the Holy Spirit will inspire them to care for the people they lead and remember how Jesus did this with love.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

2 We pray for all people in our parishes who are not able to meet together at this special time: that they will spend time with Jesus in prayer and know that, together, we are remembering the Jesus' last supper and his message to us to do this in memory of him.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

3 We pray for people in our world who are suffering in any way at this time: that they may find relief knowing that they are being remembered and that the God of love is always walking beside them. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

4 We pray for all of us who are followers of Jesus: that we may love each other as he loves each of us and that he will help us to be of service to others to show them we care. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

5 We pray for all people who have died recently and especially for people we know and love: that they will now share in the everlasting meal with Jesus in heaven. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Closing prayer: God who brings us together, we believe in your love - you are the Creator of the world. We believe in your love - you sent Jesus to live with us on earth and feed us with the food of life. We believe in your love - because of the Holy Spirit who breathes life through us. Amen.

Closing song: In Remembrance of Me

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYzqA3tagjc&list=PLv29KqSYfe2A55mzrOxvWe-iC_9yrYo6c

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer in your prayer journal (special note book).
Ask the children to write a prayer thanking God for giving himself to us through the gift of his body and blood in the Eucharist. Add to this prayer journal each day.
- Act out the story of the Last Supper as a family
- Share a meal together around the table and try to be of service to each other
- Print selected page/s 45-56: https://sundayschoolzone.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Easter_Bible_Activities_For_Kids_83.pdf