

Family Liturgy – Holy Thursday (Year B) Thursday 1 April 2021

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. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols or pictures 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

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: Today we come together to remember Jesus and to be with his disciples before his Passion on the Cross.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)
<https://i1.wp.com/ministry-to-children.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/jesus-washes-feet.jpg?resize=720%2C727&ssl=1>

Opening prayer: Heavenly Father, you gave us Jesus as an example. Just as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, help us to humble ourselves, to serve others first and listen to your word. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (13:1-15)

All: Glory to you O, Lord

It was now the day before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. He had always loved those in the world who were his own, and he loved them to the very end.

Jesus and his disciples were at supper. The Devil had already put into the heart of Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, the thought of betraying Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him complete power; he knew that he had come from God and was going to God. So he rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel around his waist. Then he poured some water into a washbasin 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, "Are you going to wash my feet, Lord?"

Jesus answered him, "You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later."

Peter declared, "Never at any time will you wash my feet!"

"If I do not wash your feet," Jesus answered, "you will no longer be my disciple."

Simon Peter answered, "Lord, do not wash only my feet, then! Wash my hands and head too!"

Jesus said, "those who have taken a bath are completely clean and do not have to wash themselves, except for their feet. All of you are clean- all except one." (Jesus already knew who was going to betray him; that is why he said, "All of you, except one, are clean.")

After Jesus had washed their feet, he put his outer garment back on and returned to his place at the table. "Do you understand what I have just done to you?" he asked. "You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you.

The Gospel of the Lord. **All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Let us then prayerfully watch the Jesus' Last Supper and the Washing of feet.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bv5ajWNrnt4> (5 mins)

Gospel reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder how Jesus was feeling knowing that Judas was going to betray him?

I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, "You do not understand what I am doing, but you will understand later."

I wonder what Peter was thinking and feeling when Jesus came to him?

I wonder what the disciples were thinking while they were listening to Jesus?

I wonder how I can serve others better?

Parent/Caregiver: Let us say a silent prayer in our hearts or aloud after reflecting on and sharing the gospel.

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.
- Act out the story of the Last Supper
- 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