



Holy Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Order for Liturgy of the Word

Holy Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Entrance Antiphon: We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection,
through whom we are saved and delivered.

Cf. Gal 6:14

Leader

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Sisters and Brothers, God invites us to hear his Word. Let us bless him for his goodness.
Blessed be God forever.

Response: Blessed be God forever.

Leader

We gather today to celebrate the Lord's Day. One with our sisters and brothers and with
the entire Church, we will listen to God's Word and join in prayer.

In preparation to hear of God's love in Christ, let us acknowledge that the Lord is the
source of pardon and strength.

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father; Lord, have mercy.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division; Christ, have mercy.

Response: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father; Lord, have mercy.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Let us pray:

Leader:

Opening Prayer: O God, who have called us to participate in this most sacred Supper, in
which your Only Begotten Son, when about to hand himself over to death, entrusted to
the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of his love, grant, we pray, that we
may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and of life. Through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God,
for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

12:1-8, 11-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall stand at the head of your calendar; you shall reckon it the first month of the year. Tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth of this month every one of your families must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household. If a family is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join the nearest household in procuring one and shall share in the lamb in proportion to the number of persons who partake of it. The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present, it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight. They shall take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house in which they partake of the lamb. That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. "This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you shall eat like those who are in flight. It is the Passover of the LORD. For on this same night I will go through Egypt, striking down every firstborn of the land, both man and beast, and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt—I, the LORD! But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you; thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you. "This day shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution." The word of the Lord. **R:** Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 116: 12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18

R. (cf. 1 Cor 10:16) Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

How shall I make a return to the LORD for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones. I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds.

R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people.

R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

Second reading

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

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. **R.** Thanks be to God.

Gospel acclamation:

Jn 13:34

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you.

Gospel

13:1-15

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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well." Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean." So 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. **R.** Praise to you, lord Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the Faithful

Introduction: Having listened to his Word, and confident that he hears ours, we offer our prayers to our Lord...

Intentions: For the Church: that we may radiate the light of Christ each day and confidently live as daughters and sons of God; we pray to the Lord:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Holy Father, Pope Francis: may he be strengthened in his ministry of guiding the Church to be a beacon of hope and moral uprightness; we pray to the Lord:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all leaders of families, businesses, and government offices; may they remember prayer before every decision and action, and exercise humility in the service of those they lead; we pray to the Lord:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

In this time of recovery from the pandemic, we pray for the healing of the sick, strength for their families, courage, and energy for those who care for them; we pray to the Lord:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

With trust in the mercy of God, we pray for all who have died. May they dine joyfully at the heavenly banquet of our Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer: Father, we pray for your Church called to renewal at this time, that our faith will be stronger, hope more secure, and charity ever more generous. This and all our prayers we make in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

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.

May the peace of the Lord be with us always.

Communion Antiphon

1 Cor 11:24-25

This is the Body that will be given up for you; this is the Chalice of the new covenant in my Blood, says the Lord; do this, whenever you receive it, in memory of me.

Spiritual Communion:

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.

Prayer after Communion

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. **R.** Amen

Blessing—making the sign of the cross:

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

Response: Amen.

Closing Thoughts: The Power of Story

My dad used to tell special stories to us kids about Bruno the Bear. Bruno was just a cub, like us. We gloried in his secret stashes of honey, in angry bees swimming in the dirty river; the little bear cleaning behind its ears at Momma's command, and so on.

With Bruno we burrowed safely into the comfy cave, his bear dad always just a few lumbering steps away. And of course our own dad's strong voice retailing all of this from the center of his dadly person. We metamorphosized into stillness and wonder.

That was a long time ago, I know, but isn't it amazing that people's ears perk up immediately when a story begins, whether they are children or not.

I wonder if you and I might feel that way Thursday evening and Friday and Saturday night during Holy Week Triduum. Will we come to attention when the story of the Last Supper is read? What about the Passion reading of Good Friday? Or are they just a test of our endurance?

There will be no problem as long as we get caught up in God's great story.

Like this. It was the night Jesus died. He took some normal, coarse bread. He blessed it, broke off pieces and gave them to his disciples. The words he said have been remembered and retold throughout history. Eat this, he said, it is my flesh. I am going to give up everything I have and am so that you can live. And this wine, it is my blood. I will shed it because I love you. Drink deep.

He picked up a pail of water—smelly because it came up from a well. He took a rough cleaning cloth and did what nobody would have ever foreseen or even wanted in a million years. He washed their feet.

Peter takes our part: "Lord you will never wash my feet! Stop it!" Actually, Peter does understand that Jesus is the Christ of God (Messiah), but this does not help to explain the menial foot-washing that only a servant would do.

In the desert the devil had tempted Jesus in a fashion not too far removed from this one. The temptations said, in effect, "You are equal to God, act like it!" And, remember, Peter had tried previously to stop Jesus' humility, and Jesus answered with, "Get behind me, you Satan!"

Now Jesus warns Peter again, this time at the supper, "If I do not wash you, you will have no part in me," and then goes ahead and washes Peter's feet.

Why? And why do we memorialize it on Holy Thursday? Because the entire relation of human beings to God is to receive love and give back love, no matter what the cost. If Peter will not allow Jesus to care for him in this very earthy way, he will be refusing the gift of God's labor on his behalf. "You can't love us in that way," he would be saying.

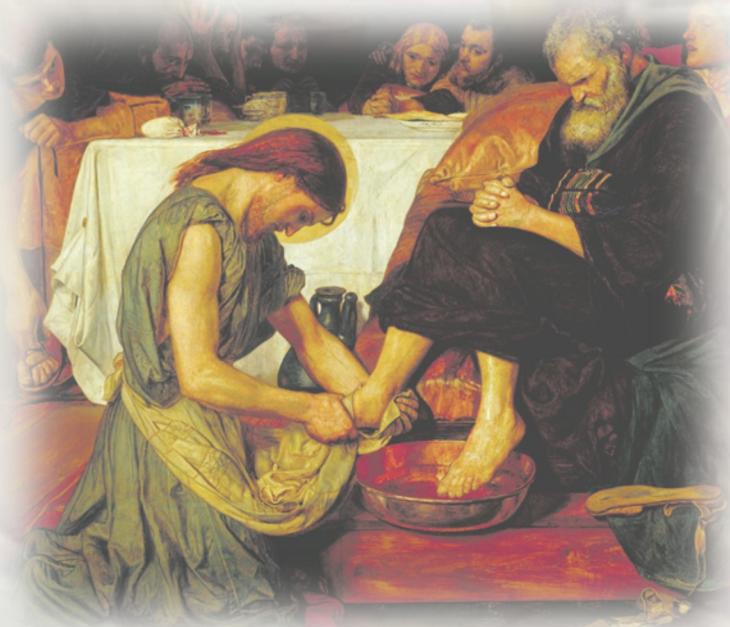
Jesus' replies with an action. "I do not want to be Godly in the way you imagine. I want to show you that only humility can love and be loved. I want to show you that death is the most humble act of all."

On Good Friday he washes us again, but this time in the humble flow of his own blood.

Will we listen to this story?

To that extent we will receive and will be stilled. We will be emptied as he was and as his followers were.

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Modification to text.



Sacris Solemnis—a Eucharistic hymn written by St. Thomas Aquinas

1 At this our solemn feast let holy joys abound,
And from the inmost breast let songs of praise resound;
Let ancient rites depart,
and all be new around, in every act, and voice, and heart.

2 Remember we that eve when, the Last Supper spread,
Christ, as we all believe, the Lamb, with leavenless bread,
Among His brethren shared, and thus the Law obeyed, of all unto their sire declared.

3 The typic Lamb consumed, the legal Feast complete,
The Lord unto the Twelve His body gave to eat;
The whole to all, no less
the whole to each did mete with His own hands, as we confess.

4 He gave them, weak and frail, His flesh, their food to be;
On them, downcast and sad, His blood bestowed He:
And thus to them He spake, "Receive this cup from Me, and all of you of this partake."

5 So He this sacrifice to institute did will,
And charged His priests alone that office to fulfil:
To them He did confide:
to whom it pertains still to take, and the rest divide.

6 Thus Angels' bread is made the bread of man today:
The living bread from heaven with figures dost away:
O wondrous gift indeed!
The poor and lowly may upon their Lord and Master feed.

7 Thee, therefore, we implore, O Godhead, One in Three,
So may Thou visit us as we now worship Thee;
And lead us on Thy way,
that we at last may see the light wherein Thou dwellest aye.

Tr.: John David Chambers (1805–1893)

Additional traditional Eucharistic Hymns for Holy Thursday:

Pange lingua: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnrOwiYqTcc>

Panis Angelicus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTAVYgKh5kk>

Sacris Solemnis (see English text above) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PVx-dV9upY>

Spot the Differences for Jesus Washed the Disciples' Feet

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 12 things that are different.

