

A HOME LITURGY FOR HOLY THURSDAY

The liturgy of Holy Thursday moves us into the celebration of “The Three Days” – the Easter Triduum, during which we make memory of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Holy Thursday especially commemorates Jesus’s command to serve others, modelled explicitly in the washing of feet and the celebration of the Eucharist. Even when we are unable to gather to celebrate Eucharist, we are still called to be a eucharistic people. Jesus’s self-gift in the Eucharist allows us to give freely of ourselves to others, following Jesus’s instructions, “Do this in memory of me.”



Agape Meal at Home

Place a bowl of water and towel on the table as well as a candle (s). Begin by washing hands.

Tonight we begin the Great Three Days
of our Lord’s passion, death and resurrection,
the journey from the supper table to the cross,
from the cross to Easter dawn.

We are followers in his way, exploring his truth, encountering his life.

This is the night when Christ the Lamb of God
gave himself into the hands of those who would betray him.

This is the night when Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

This is the night when Christ our Lord gave us this holy feast,
that as we break the bread and drink the cup
we may here proclaim his holy sacrifice,
and come at the last to his table in heaven.

This is the night when Christ took a towel and washed the disciples’ feet,
showing us how to honor and serve one another in love.

This is the night for watching and prayer.

We give ourselves freely to the demands of these great days,
confident that those who die in Christ will surely live with him.

Lighting of the Candle(s)

Blessed are you, Lord God of the universe. You have kept us alive by Your creative Word. May this place be consecrated by the light of your face shining on us in blessing and peace. May this light inspire us to use the gifts God has given; to heal and not to harm, to help and not to hinder, to bless and not to curse, to serve you, God of freedom.

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father,
you have loved us with an everlasting love,
but we have broken your holy laws
and have left undone what we ought to have done.
We are sorry for our sins
and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
forgive us, cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit,
enable us to live for you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Christ died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. *Romans 6.10-11*

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Grace before the meal

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
Through your goodness you bring forth bread from the earth and you create fruit from the vine, and you refresh us with your promise of salvation. We thank you that you give us the breath of life, our food, our conversation, and our laughter. Give us thankful hearts to sing your praise and make us good companions along the way. Blessed be God forever.

Meal

The Prayers

Merciful God, on this, the night he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet. As we commit ourselves to following his example of love and service, teach us humility.

On this night, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one. As we grieve for the divisions in the church, unite us.

On this night, Jesus prayed for those who would come to believe through the disciples' message. As we take up the mission of the church, renew our zeal.

On this night, Jesus commanded his friends to love, but he suffered rejection himself. As we open our hearts to the rejected and the unloved, fill us with your love.

On this night, Jesus reminded his people that, if the world hated them, it had hated him first. As we face our own fears, we pray for those who are persecuted for their faith; give us your peace.

On this night, Jesus loved his friends to the very end. As we open our hearts to all who face darkness tonight, we pray for the sick, those who mourn, those trapped by violence, addiction, or pain: give healing and hope.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gospel Reading: John 13:1-17, 31b-35



Eucharistic Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Grace after Dinner

May the name of the Lord be blessed from now unto eternity.

Blessed are you, Lord God of the universe, who provides for us all with goodness, grace, justice and compassion. There is food for all God's creatures, if only we do not withhold it.

Blessed are you, Lord of creation: you have provided for all; may all receive what you have given.

Concluding Prayers

Holy God, source of all love,
on the night of his betrayal

Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment,
to love one another as he loved them:

write this commandment in our hearts,
and give us the will to serve others

as he was the servant of all,

who gave his life and died for us,

yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen.

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray
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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
The story of your suffering is written on our hearts,
and the salvation of the world is in your outstretched hands.
Keep your victory always before our eyes,
your praise on our lips,
your peace in our lives. Amen.



With thanks to Fr Clive McCallum St Augustine's Anglican Church Lynwood