



**The Lord's Supper**  
a liturgy for Maundy Thursday  
to be practiced in the home  
April 9, 2020

**“So whether you eat or drink  
or whatever you do,  
do it all for the glory of God.”  
I Corinthians 10:31**

## **Jesus gives thanks as he shares a meal with his friends.**

(You may begin this movement as you gather around the table)

*What you need:* Bread, Cup

*Introduction:* When people looked for Jesus, they usually found him at a table, sharing a meal with friends, old and new, respected and unsavory, from a variety of backgrounds. And so it was on his last night, Jesus sat at a table, sharing a meal with his unlikely group of friends. And so it is good for us to be at this table tonight, sharing this meal with you.



*Action:* You may hold up the bread and a cup

At the table, Jesus took broke bread and poured out wine to give to his disciples, but before he did, he gave thanks. And so before we begin this meal, we take a moment to give thanks.

*Prayer:* Creator God, you are the One who brings forth grain from the earth and drink from the vine and from the waters that flow around us. We give thanks to you for all of your gifts as well as the hands that have taken those gifts and formed them into what we now eat and drink. We give thanks for loved ones and for this meal we are about to share. Let us find your love for us in the bread and the cup and in one another. Amen.

*Conversation Starter:* What is something you are grateful for tonight?

## **Jesus asked his disciples to stay awake with him while he poured out his heart to God**

(You may begin this movement during the meal)

*Introduction:* After dinner, Jesus asked his disciples to come with him to a garden called Gethsemane. There, Jesus asked the disciples to stay awake with him while he prayed, while he



shared with God his deepest fears and feelings. Even Jesus desired companionship, to share his struggles with loved ones. None of us, even Jesus, are meant to go through this life alone. And if Jesus can ask for help, for support, for others to help him bear his burdens, we can too. Jesus' disciples fell asleep in his time of need. But we can remain awake for one another.

*Conversation Starter:* Are there any ways we need others and can support one another through prayer or action?

*Action:* There are a variety of ways you could pray for one another. Consider what would be meaningful to others at the meal.

- ◇ If people are comfortable, pray for each other out loud, spontaneously
- ◇ You might take time of silence. In this time, speak the name of each person, followed by some silence as you all pray for that person. You might also—with permission—lay hands on each others' head or shoulder during this prayer time.

*Closing prayer* (from the New Century Hymnal): Gracious God, who loves all and forgets none, we bring to you our prayers for all your children. O compassionate God, hear our prayers, answer them according to your will, and make us channels of your infinite grace; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.”

### **Jesus washed his disciples' feet**

(You may begin this movement as the meal is winding down) *What you need:* Two bowls filled with water, soap (optional)

*Introduction:* After supper, Jesus washed his disciples' feet. He wanted to show them that all of us are made to serve in joyful love. But at first, his friend Peter wouldn't let him. Sometimes it is hard for us to lower ourselves and serve. Sometimes it is hard for us to be served.



*Conversation Starter:* When have you served, and what was that experience like? When have you been served, and what was that experience like? Are there places in your life where you have a chance to serve now? Are there parts of your life where you are resisting others' help? How can embracing both our servanthood and our need for help lead us into a fuller life?

*Action:* Wash one another's hands in the bowls with the soap.

## **Jesus entrusted himself to God's heart**

(You may begin this movement as you prepare to part)

*Introduction:* After Jesus had poured out his heart to God, he finished, "Yet not my will, but yours be done." As we part ways tonight, we go in the constant blessing of God's presence, wherever we go, whatever we do. We also go in the invitation to be present to God, to live in love towards all people, no matter where we are or whom we're with.



*Action:* Bless one another

With a handshake, a hug, a hand on the shoulder, and/or making the sign of the cross over someone (make the "OK" sign with your hand, and move it from top to bottom, left to right in the direction of the other(s)).

*Blessing:* "Christ has been among us. Now Christ goes before us. May your life glow with Christ's love."