

Your Lourdes Holy Thursday Liturgy at Home Holy Thursday – April 9, 2020

The Triduum begins. We plunge into the three days that the Church celebrates as one Great Day in three movements. Today in our captivity, we can “shelter in place” in the Upper Room together with the men and women who were the closest followers of Christ. We can remember the liberating meal of our Jewish ancestors in faith as they awaited their exodus from enslavement. We are invited into serving our brothers and sisters by the example of Jesus. We can recall the 107 Holy Thursdays past at Our Lady of Lourdes where singing congregations processed to the Altar of Repose where the Eucharistic hosts were enshrined. We long for that day to return, however, we know we must worship in new ways until we get an “all clear” sign and we come together again.

This worship aid for Your Lourdes Liturgy at Home includes Prayers and Scriptures. You may even want to adapt our foot washing traditions for your home situation. Or, given the need for all of us to be doing frequent 20-second hand washing, perhaps hand washing is the symbolic act for Holy Thursday 2020 in a Time of Pandemic. It’s your decision. Whatever you do, please end up with a goodly period of silence to punctuate the meaning of the day. Before turning on the TV or scrolling the smart phones, let the silence wash over you. Be blessed.

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Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Prayer: O God, in the fullness of time you revealed your love in Jesus the Lord. On the eve of his death, as a sign of your covenant, he washed the feet of his disciples and gave himself as food and drink. Give us life at the sacred banquet and joy in humble service, that, bound to Christ in all things, we may pass over from this world to your kingdom, where he lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Let the church say – Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

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.....Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

[PSALM 116:12-13, 15-16BC, 17-18.](#)

R. 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.

Reading 2

A Reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

[1ST 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.....Thanks be to God.

Verse Before the Gospel

[JOHN 13:34](#)

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

Gospel

A Reading from holy Gospel according to St. John

[JOHN 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.....Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions for Reflection

- We're told that our senses of taste and smell both prompt our memories to bring back remembrances of times past. Discuss your experience of "meals and remembering".
- How do these sense connections help us to remember the sacrifice of Jesus, as St. Paul writes in today's reading from First Corinthians:

[Jesus] 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."
[emphasis added]

- Share your experience of being served by someone. Did you feel unworthy or patronized or objectified or invisible? How can you serve others and honor their dignity? How can you serve in a time of sheltering in place?

When your discussion draws to a close, do a ritual washing, and/or move into prayer.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS – April 9, 2020 HOLY THURSDAY

Presider: Dear friends, we want to be followers of Christ. We want to be one of his disciples and imitate him in our service with others. Let us give voice to the needs of our world.

Worship Leader

1. For Pope Francis and our newly appointed Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer — that in these challenging times, they may of devise creative ways to encourage and support us. We pray:
Order our steps, O God. (ASSEMBLY RESPONDS: **Order our steps, O God.**)

2. For a spirit of service among all Christians— that we may serve each other and accept the service of others when we need it. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
3. For all who are suffering because of COVID-19, those afflicted with the virus and those worried about it — that God may comfort all. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
4. For healthcare workers, first responders and all who give comfort to the sick — that they may be protected from danger. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
5. For homeless people, refugees, and other very vulnerable people — that people in power may defend and protect them. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
6. For our world, that peace will come to the Holy Land, to Syria, and to all the troubled areas of our world. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
7. For those who were about to be Baptized and Confirmed this week, but who now must wait until liturgies are possible again, that they will experience the support of their Christian communities. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
8. For the hungry of our world, that they will be supplied with nutritious meals through programs like the Rice Bowl collection of Catholic Relief Services. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
9. For the success of the Stephen Ministry and our Care Team, their leaders, and all care receivers here at Lourdes. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
10. For an end to the Death Penalty and Human Trafficking, especially in Georgia. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
11. For all those who are separated from us by infirmity, and for all those living with HIV/AIDS, that they know our community's care for them. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**

12. For all who have died, that they may share fully in Christ's victory, and for all who mourn, that they may be comforted. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**
13. Please mention any intention you have [PAUSE.....] as well as all our own personal needs. We pray: **Order our steps, O God.**

Presider: Loving God, we long to share the supper your Son has left for us, but know that we must wait until our world is safe again. We long to share our brokenness at the table of mercy. Hear our pleas, and heal us and our world of all divisions. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who beckons us to walk in the newness of life. LET THE CHURCH SAY.....AMEN!

Pray together The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer:

Almighty God,
the supper that your Son left us this night
sustains our life on earth;
grant that our hunger may be fully satisfied
in the everlasting banquet of heaven.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LET THE CHURCH SAY: AMEN

DISPERSE IN PROFOUND SILENCE