

Agapé for Maundy Thursday^{*}

A meatless meal is to be preferred. The setting should be austere and the foods simple. Appropriate foods include soup, cheese, olives, dried fruit, bread, and grape juice or wine.

If there are several persons present, one will preside.

(Note: Multiple households could prepare for this service and coordinate their celebration of it using a video conferencing platform, alternating blessings.)

+ *The Blessings* +

The Presider begins:

We begin by washing, as we were washed in our baptism. We cleanse our hands as we were cleansed in the waters of new birth. We do this not because we are afraid, but because we were commanded to love, and to cleanse our hands, and gather in spirit, is how we love the vulnerable, whom Jesus loved. May we be instruments of love. May the sacrifices we make be for the good of our human family near and far.†

Each person present then washes their hands thoroughly with soap and water. Once washed each should help with setting the table as they are able.

At the time appointed, all gather around the table, standing as able.

After a time of silence, the Presider offers the following blessings.

Over Grape Juice or Wine

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Over Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and you have fed us on our way with the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. Let us be fed again soon with that bread of life. And as grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Over the Other Foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

+ The Meal +

The meal is now eaten. If several are gathered, they first serve one another, then dine.

+ The Word and the Prayers +

At the end of the meal, the seventeenth chapter of the gospel of John is read, and a simple hymn can be sung. Perhaps Hymn 602, 'Jesu, Jesu'.

Chapter 17 of the Gospel According to John

1 When Jesus finished saying these things, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son can glorify you. **2** You gave him authority over everyone so that he could give eternal life to everyone you gave him. **3** This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent. **4** I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. **5** Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I shared with you before the world was created.

6 “I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. **7** Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. **8** This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

9 “I’m praying for them. I’m not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. **10** Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. **11** I’m no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I’m coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one. **12** When I was with them, I watched over them in your name, the name you gave to me, and I kept them safe. None of them were lost, except the one who was destined for destruction, so that scripture would be fulfilled. **13** Now I’m coming to you and I

say these things while I'm in the world so that they can share completely in my joy. **14** I gave your word to them and the world hated them, because they don't belong to this world, just as I don't belong to this world. **15** I'm not asking that you take them out of this world but that you keep them safe from the evil one. **16** They don't belong to this world, just as I don't belong to this world. **17** Make them holy in the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. **19** I made myself holy on their behalf so that they also would be made holy in the truth.

20 "I'm not praying only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their word. **21** I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. **22** I've given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. **23** I'm in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me.

24 "Father, I want those you gave me to be with me where I am. Then they can see my glory, which you gave me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

25 "Righteous Father, even the world didn't know you, but I've known you, and these believers know that you sent me. **26** I've made your name known to them and will continue to make it known so that your love for me will be in them, and I myself will be in them."

The following psalm is then said. If there is more than one voice, it is said in unison.

Psalm 63:1-8

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place;
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you,
your right hand holds me fast.

The service closes with the following prayer

O God of the crucified and risen One, from whom no trial or trouble can separate us: you feed us with your Word and soothe us with your Spirit, closer to us than breath itself.

Make us glad this night for the life of your servant Jesus;

Make us servants of all for the sake of Jesus;

who for our sake gave his life for the salvation of all.

In the Name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

* *From the Book of Occasional Services 2018, adapted/edited by the Rev. Dr. James Farwell and Dr. Lisa Kimball for use when Maundy Thursday Eucharist is not possible. Appropriate adaptations for illness in the household can be made.*

† *Provided by The Rev. Josephine Robertson, All Saints Episcopal Church, Bellevue, WA and the Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews, St. Hilda St. Patrick, Edmonds, WA. [This prayer is a very elegant attempt to protect a ritual hand-washing from antiseptic / self-protective associations and link it explicitly to the second commandment and to Jesus' care for the vulnerable. One may ponder whether it succeeds or whether hand-washing would better occur outside the rite. – Dr. James Farwell]*