

Agape Meal for Maundy Thursday

Preparing for the Agape Meal

- As you prepare for this meal, think about what you can do to make it special. What things do you have on hand that you can use? Perhaps candles, cloth napkins, flowers or branches from your yard, a special food?
- Include bread and wine in the meal if possible (something similar like crackers or a juice could be subbed instead of bread and wine).
- Choose one or more people to offer the following prayers.

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

† The Blessings †

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

After a time of silence, one or more persons offer the following blessings.

Over 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 following psalm and prayers are said.

Choose someone to offer the psalm and the closing prayer.

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.

Let us pray

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. Adapted/edited by the Rev. Andria Skornik for All Saints.

† Foot / Hand Washing for Maundy Thursday †

The following instructions are for if you would like to include the ritual of foot or hand washing in your observance of Maundy Thursday.

Preparing for the Foot/Hand Washing

- You will need a pitcher of water, a towel(s) and a large bowl.

The Foot or Hand Washing

Choose someone to read the following instructions and prayers.

Optional: Read about Jesus washing his disciples' feet in the Bible (John 13:1-17).

Leader Jesus washed the feet of his friends as an act of love, service, and preparation. We will take turns washing one another's feet as a way to love and serve each other.

Taking turns, wash each other's hands or feet. Freshen supplies as needed. If you are alone, you may prayerfully wash your own hands or feet in solidarity with Jesus and his disciples around the world. Close with the following prayer.

Leader Blessed are you, Lord God.
The basin and the towel are signs to us of your Son's servanthood.
You have made us partakers of Christ and of one another.
As we go forth, give us grace
to count others more important than ourselves,
to love our enemies,
to make peace.

Send the Spirit of truth to keep alive in us
what Jesus taught and did,
that our words may carry his good news, and
that our lives may bear the shape of the cross
of the One who lives and reigns with You
and with the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever. Amen.

* Prayer by Reggie M. Kidd.