

# Prayer Service for Holy Thursday in FAMILIES



## INTRODUCTION

### Presider:

Holy Thursday begins what is known as the Easter Triduum: the three days celebrating events surrounding the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Thursday liturgy invites us to enter more deeply the mystery of Christ's institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper: There, at table with his friends, He gives Himself over to them under the appearance of bread and wine, a foretaste of when He will give Himself over to vanquish the power of sin and evil, rise to new life, and redeem the human race. The Gospel reading used in today's Eucharist is John's account of Christ washing His disciples' feet. This is the example we are to follow – the Eucharist made visible in the witness of self-giving love.

## OPENING SONG:

Please join in our opening song:

*(Sugg. Celebration Hymnal for Everyone: Will You Let Me Be Your Servant, verses 1-3 #813 or other suitable song.*

## OPENING PRAYER

### Presider:

Let us begin today's family prayer with the sign of our faith:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Let us pray:** Lord, as we prepare to enter the mystery of these three most holy days, we ask you to illumine our minds and hearts with the hope and promise of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. Give us eyes to see Him in the breaking of the bread and hearts that reach out to Him in service to one another. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. Amen

And now, let us listen to God's word

## READING *(someone else from the Family read the Gospel)*

### **A reading from the Gospel of John (Jn 13, 1-12)**

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."



## Holy Thursday

**The Word of the Lord.**  
Thanks be to God

*All in the family sit down and reflect on the Words of Jesus and his action seen in the gospel. What words touched you. Share with others. What Jesus is asking you to do?*

**Someone from the Family prays the Litany:**

### Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, hear us, Christ, hear us.  
Christ, graciously hear us, Christ, graciously hear us.  
God the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.  
God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.  
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.  
  
O Living Bread, Who from Heaven descended, have mercy on us.  
Hidden God and Savior, have mercy on us.  
Grain of the elect, have mercy on us.  
Vine sprouting forth virgins, have mercy on us.  
Wholesome Bread and delicacy of kings, have mercy on us.  
Perpetual sacrifice, have mercy on us.  
Clean oblation, have mercy on us.  
Lamb without spot, have mercy on us.

Most pure feast, have mercy on us.  
Food of Angels, have mercy on us.  
Hidden manna, have mercy on us.  
Memorial of God's wonders, have mercy on us.  
Super substantial Bread, have mercy on us.  
Word made flesh, dwelling in us, have mercy on us.  
Holy Victim, have mercy on us.

O Cup of blessing, have mercy on us.  
O Mystery of faith, have mercy on us.  
O Most high and venerable Sacrament, have mercy on us.  
O Most holy of all sacrifices, have mercy on us.  
O True propitiatory Sacrifice for the living and the dead, have mercy on us.  
O Heavenly antidote, by which we are preserved from sin, have mercy on us.  
O stupendous miracle above all others, have mercy on us.  
O most holy Commemoration of the Passion of Christ, have mercy on us.  
O Gift transcending all abundance, have mercy on us.  
O extraordinary memorial of Divine love, have mercy on us.  
O affluence of Divine largess, have mercy on us.  
O most holy and august mystery, have mercy on us.

Medicine of immortality, have mercy on us.  
Awesome and life-giving Sacrament, have mercy on us.  
Unbloody Sacrifice, have mercy on us.  
Food and guest, have mercy on us.  
Sweetest banquet at which the Angels serve, have mercy on us.  
Bond of love, have mercy on us.  
Offering and oblation, have mercy on us.  
Spiritual sweetness tasted in its own fountain, have mercy on us.  
Refreshment of holy souls, have mercy on us.  
Viaticum of those dying in the Lord, have mercy on us.  
Pledge of future glory, have mercy on us.

Be merciful, spare us, O Lord.  
Be merciful, graciously hear us, O Lord.

From the unworthy reception of Thy Body and Blood, deliver us, O Lord.  
From passions of the flesh, deliver us, O Lord.  
From the concupiscence of the eyes, deliver us, O Lord.  
From pride, deliver us, O Lord.  
From every occasion of sin, deliver us, O Lord.  
Through that desire, with which Thou desiredst to eat the Passover with Thy disciples, deliver us, O Lord.  
Through that profound humility with which Thou didst wash Thy disciples' feet, deliver us, O Lord.  
Through that most ardent love, with which Thou instituted this Divine Sacrament,



deliver us, O Lord.

Through the most precious Blood, which Thou hast left for us upon the altar,  
deliver us, O Lord.

Through those Five Wounds of Thy most holy Body, which was given up for us,  
deliver us, O Lord.

Sinners we are, we beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldst graciously preserve and augment the faith, reverence, and devotion in us  
towards this admirable Sacrament, we beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldst graciously lead us through the true confession of we beseech Thee,  
hear us.

our sins to a frequent reception of the Eucharist, we beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldst graciously free us from every heresy, falsehood, and blindness of the  
heart, we beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldst graciously impart to us the Heavenly and precious fruits of this most Holy  
Sacrament, we beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldst graciously protect and strengthen us in our hour of death with this  
Heavenly Viaticum, we beseech Thee, hear us.

O Son of God, we beseech Thee, hear us.

Lamb of God, Who taketh away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who taketh away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who taketh away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, O Lord.

Christ, hear us, Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us, Christ, graciously hear us.

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

V. Thou didst furnish them with Bread from Heaven,

R. Having in it every delight.

**Let us pray:** O God, Who under a marvelous Sacrament has left us a memorial of Thy  
Passion; grant us; we beseech Thee; so to venerate the sacred mysteries of Thy Body and  
Blood, that we may ever perceive within us the fruit of Thy Redemption. Thou, Who livest  
and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

Suitable Song: .....

### **Come, O Jesus of the Eucharist**

Jesus of the Eucharist! Come to us and be our Ruler! All that we have and are is Yours to  
command, for all that we have is Yours. If our hearts are poor, enrich them with Your grace.  
If they have been sinful and soiled, accept them pure and cleansed through the Immaculate  
Heart of Mary.

Suffering Heart of Jesus! to You we confide all the trials of our souls.

Sweet Heart of Jesus! to Your care we confide our weaknesses and ask You to accept our sincere repentance.

Compassionate Heart of Jesus! to You we confide our souls tormented by our suffering conscience.

Gentle heart of Jesus! we confide to You the peace and salvation of our families.

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus! the world, worried unto death, finds a refuge in Your Heart, where the lance once opened for us the source of Life.

Come, O Jesus! Be our brother in the pure joy of Christian love!

Come, O Jesus! Be our friend in the depths of this world's sorrows.

### **Prayers for priests**

#### **1.**

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayers on behalf of your priests.

Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life.

In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed for the work of redemption.

**Or:**

#### **2.**

### **A Prayer for Priests by St. Therese of Lisieux**

O Jesus, eternal Priest, keep your priests within the shelter of Your Sacred Heart, where none may touch them.

Keep unstained their anointed hands, which daily touch Your Sacred Body.

Keep unsullied their lips, daily purpled with your Precious Blood.

Keep pure and unearthly their hearts, sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood.

Let Your holy love surround them and shield them from the world's contagion.

Bless their labors with abundant fruit and may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and consolation here and in heaven their beautiful and everlasting crown.

Amen.

**Suitable Song: ..... Then the Family members take the intercessions;**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Let us pray for the Church. That all the baptized come to greater unity and understanding. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
2. Let us pray for the world. That persons everywhere will heed the call to peace written on every human heart. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
3. Let us pray for those who suffer quietly in our communities of work and daily life, especially those because of the Coronavirus. That they might encounter in us the love of Christ brought out through the celebrations of these most holy days. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
4. Let us pray for our community, family members and friends. That they might experience the joy and peace of the risen Christ this Easter. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
5. Let us pray for those we serve – in our communities protecting us from the virus – that they might receive what they need to grow and thrive as God's children and have his protection from all danger. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
6. For our own intentions spoke in the quiet of our hearts.... We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us gather all our prayers, spoken aloud and in the quiet of our hearts and unite them with one voice, using the words Jesus gave us: ***Our Father...***

## Closing Prayer and Blessing

Lord, we thank You for the gift of Your Son. May our entry into the mysteries of His life, death and resurrection give us the confidence to live with unshakeable faith in Your faithful and abiding love. We make this prayer to You in His name. Amen.

**And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**CLOSING SONG: .....**

