

Holy Week at Home – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter

Maundy Thursday – April 9, 2020

Gathering Prayer: Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

- Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14
- Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- John 13:1-17; 31-35
- Matthew 26:26-30

Reflection:

Tonight Jesus gathers with the disciples around a simple table to share a meal of their faith together. They gather and remember the stories of how God was present with their ancestors. They tell the story of the Passover, the same one we read as our OT lesson tonight. And they share stories; stories of how God was present in their lives, how God walked with them through their ups and downs.

It is in the sharing of a meal that deep conversations happen. We tell stories of meals past, favorites and ones that failed miserably. We tell stories of people; family and friends who are with us and those who have died. We share what is happening in our lives; the good, the bad, the funny, the sad, the beautiful and the ugly. And we are fed; not just physically- although that is important too- but we are also fed spiritually and emotionally.

Connections happen over tables. In eating. In talking. In silence. In creating space to be together.

Questions for Reflection and discussion:

- What is the story of your table? Where did you get it (buy, hand me down, make yourself)? What is unique about it?
- What do you use it for? Just eating? Homework or work from home, sewing, crafting, playing games, paying bills, family conversations etc.
- What is your favorite memory around your table and what makes that so special?
- How was the meal significant for Jesus? How was it significant for the disciples?
- What message do you think Jesus is trying to share with his disciples and with us?
- How does the experience of gathering around a table impact how we hear and receive this message?

Maudy Thursday services traditionally end with the reading of Psalm 22 and the stripping of the Altar. You are invited to read psalm 22, either together or in parts.

Good Friday – April 10, 2020

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Reflection:

Tonight we read the entire story from the Gospel of John of Jesus last day. His betrayal, denial, trial and crucifixion. It's a long story. And it's easy to get lost in the enormity of it and lose the details. This year, we invite you to pick one of the character of the story and follow them all the way through. Imagine what it would have been like to be that character, living the story for the first time, without the 20/20 hindsight that we have now of the resurrection. After you're done reading the story, keeping in mind your character, share some of the discussion questions that follow.

Scripture Reading:

- John 18:1--19:42
- Note: this is a really long reading. You may want to take turns, each reading a part of the story.

A few Characters you might want to pick from to focus on:

- Judas
- High Priest Caiaphas
- Peter
- Pilate
- Barabbas
- The disciples
- A person in the crowd
- One of the soldiers
- Mary, Jesus Mother
- Mary Magdalene
- One of the other women
- Joseph of Arimathea
- Nikodemus

Questions for Discussion:

- Which character did you chose? Why?
- What do you think your character was feeling during the story?
 - o Can you identify with your character?
- What piece of the story does your character experience? Just part or the whole thing?
- At the end of the story, what is your character thinking or feeling?

Closing Prayer and blessing:

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.
May God be merciful and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
Let your way be known upon earth,

your saving health among all nations.
We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.
We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.

Easter Sunday – April 12, 2020

Opening Prayer: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

- Acts 10:34-43
- Psalm 118: 1-2;14-24
- Colossians 3:1-4
- Matthew 28:1-10

Questions for discussion and Reflection

- The disciples are locked in a room, because they are afraid. What fears do we have that keep us from meeting the resurrected Jesus?
- Easter is all about New life and hope. Where are you experience new life today? What are you most hopeful for this season? Where are you experiencing hope?
- What character did you pick on Good Friday? What is your character experiencing on Easter Sunday?
- How are you experiencing Easter this year? What is different about it this year, in light of our world pandemic situation?

Prayer: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead for He is alive and has become the Lord of Life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ. And help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you. Through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

Pray the Lord's prayer together

Blessing: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.