

EASTER AT HOME



Do this in memory of me

Remembering the Last Supper

Prepared by

Sacred Heart

INTERNATIONAL
ENGLISH SPEAKING
CATHOLIC PARISH AMMAN



with
inspirations by
and
thanks to

www.aletheia.org

The Jesuit Community in Homs

www.youtube.org

All the “Easter at Home” liturgical services will include the section of preparation before the prayer, and the program of the prayer including a para-liturgical activity or rite. In the preparations section there will be the “prayer corner” which can be a table you adorn nicely and you arrange the seats in front of it, or you out the table in your midst and sit around it. I have also prepared a YouTube playlist with music that would fit. Feel free in using it or not.

Today’s celebration has an introduction and three parts

1. Listening to the Word
2. Washing of the Feet
3. Praying with Jesus at the Mount of Olives

PREPARATIONS

a) On the Prayer Corner:

a candle without lighting it,
an image of Jesus (an icon if you have),
an olive branch
a basin (stainless steel or plastic) of water and a towel.

b) Decide on the Roles of the Prayer

Leader

Who reads: 1st reading

Gospel of the Last Supper

Gospel of the Mount of Olives

c) YouTube-Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGQ1K7iACa82R0QwNIGpZ71-VkefTgXJk>

INTRODUCTION

All are seated. You can start with listening to the first song “Ubi caritas (Bob Hurd)” and while you are listening you kindle the candle.

The leader of the celebration introduces the prayer with these words (or his or her own):

We celebrate today the Love that Jesus has for us. He showed this love to his disciples, when he washed them their feet and broke the bread for them, the bread and the wine, his Holy Body and His Most Precious Blood. Even though we cannot celebrate this love together with our community, we will listen, remember Him and pray with Him tonight. Let us begin with the sign of the cross:

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

L: The Lord is in our midst.

All: He is and always will be. Amen.

PRAYER

The leader says the opening prayer:

Almighty every-living God, grant us so to celebrate the mysteries of the Lord's Passion that we may merit to receive your pardon. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Part 1: LISTENING TO THE WORD

The reader of the first reading remains standing while the rest sit down.

FIRST READING (1 Cor 11:23-26)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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.

MEDITATION

Play the song “Eat this bread, drink this cup” from the playlist or stay silent for some moments.

GOSPEL

All rise and say or sing the acclamation of the gospel.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:

love one another as I have loved you.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

All: Glory to you, O Lord

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.”

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Part 2 - WASHING OF THE FEET

After the reading of the Gospel we can stay in silence for a minute. Then the leader introduces the rite with these words or with his or her own:

Now we are going to do like Jesus to remember him, we are going to wash each other's feet, I will start by washing the feet of the one who is next to me, the one next to me will wash the feet of his next neighbor and the last one will wash my feet. It's a little weird to wash each other's feet, right? This is a way of saying that we want to serve each other, taking care of each other, that we are ready to do anything to love them.

Then we wash one another the feet. If a child is too small or someone cannot, we will help him, but we will do it together. We can listen to the song "Ubi caritas" from the playlist while we do it. A moment of silence can be good afterwards.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The leader introduces the Lord's Prayer:

United in the Spirit and in the communion of the Church, we pray with the words the Lord Jesus himself taught us:

Our Father...

For the kingdom...

Then the leader invites those present to share a sign of peace:

We have just joined our voices with that of the Lord Jesus to pray to the Father. In the love that unites us with one another, renewed by the word of God, we can exchange a gesture of peace, a sign of the communion we receive from the Lord.

All then exchange a greeting of peace from a distance: for example, by bowing deeply towards each other in turn; or, as a family, by blowing each other a kiss. Then all sit down.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The leader says:

When we can't receive sacramental communion for lack of a Mass, Pope Francis urges us to practice spiritual communion, also called "communion of desire." So let us all say the Act of Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

All remain in silence for 2 minutes for a heart-to-heart conversation with Jesus Christ.

Part 3 - PRAYING ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

The leader introduces also this third part with these words or in his or her own way:

After the meal they went to the garden on the Mount of Olives, let us listen to the Gospel and stay with Jesus and pray with him.

GOSPEL

All rise and listen to the Gospel of the Mount of Olives

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me."

He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will."

When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test.* The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!"

Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand”

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The leader invites everyone to stay in silence for a good amount of time.

The disciples were too tired to pray with Jesus. But we, we can stay with him for a little while.

You can play the last two songs of the playlist, as long as you want to stay praying. There is no dismissal and no blessing in this celebration it ends open ended.