

Holy Thursday Faith Family Prayer Service

We gather to pray and remember Jesus' Last Supper with the Apostles during this time.

Supplies you'll need to prepare ahead of time

- Empty table
- Bright tablecloth
- Bouquet of fresh flowers (optional, for table)
- Pitcher of water
- Empty bowl
- Towels to dry hands
- Candles
- The script on the following page (script accompanies the slide show provided)
- Pita bread, tortilla or any bread
- Grape juice
- Cups
- 30 minutes of time together



{Slide 1 - Title Slide}

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Today, on Holy Thursday, we are going to relive what Jesus and His friends did when they celebrated the Last Supper. We are going to use our five senses to help us understand the importance of the events that took place at the table of the Last Supper. Jesus shared his last meal with the 12 Apostles the night before He gave up His life for all of us on the cross. This was the First Eucharist. In order to share a meal with friends we will prepare the table to honor the memory of Jesus.

(Spread out a tablecloth) - The sight of a bright tablecloth makes us feel welcome.

(Put out flowers and light the candles) - The smell of the flowers and light of the candles remind us that we are celebrating a very special meal.

For our meal we need the food and drink that Jesus used at the Last Supper, bread and wine. Bread gives us the energy and strength to live, and wine helps us rejoice. - ***(Put bread and wine on the table)***

Before the 12 Apostles sat down to eat, Jesus washed each one's feet. Because only sandals were worn at this time, guests often arrived with muddy feet. Washing the 12 Apostles' feet was a sign of Jesus' kindness, caring and willingness to serve others. At the Last Supper, Jesus rose from the table, removed His outer clothing, and taking a towel, wrapped it around His waist. He then poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of His apostles. He dried them with the towel he was wearing.

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Today, instead of washing each other's feet, we will pass around a bowl for you to wash your hands in. Let the sound of the pouring water remind us of Jesus' love and service to His friends. The Apostles were to use this as an example of the way they were to serve one another.

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Let us now listen to a reading about the First Eucharist: *(if able, have a student read:)* - 1 Corinthians 11:23-27

One day a friend of Jesus, called Paul, wrote a letter to some other Christians and this is what he said: "I am going to tell you what I learned from Jesus himself. On the night before He died, Jesus and his friends gathered for a meal. While they were eating, Jesus took the bread on the table and broke it; He thanked His heavenly Father for it. Then he said, 'This bread is my very life for you. Share this meal often, and remember me when you do.' Next Jesus took a cup of wine, and as with the bread, He thanked His Father for it, and He passed the cup around so that each of His friends could drink from it. Then He said, 'This wine is also my life, which I give for you. Remember me when you drink from this cup.' That is why those who eat the bread and drink the wine must prepare themselves well, for they are sharing in the life of Jesus, a life that lasts forever."

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We would like to share bread and juice together, just like Jesus did at the Last Supper.

Now that we have shared our meal of bread and juice, let us give thanks to Jesus by praying the prayer He taught us. *Join together and pray the Our Father as a family.*

We hope that this prayer service has helped you to better understand the meaning and importance of the Last Supper and Holy Thursday. We have seen the bright colors on the table. We have smelled the flowers and seen the glow of the candle. We heard the water being poured in the bowl that was used to wash our hands, symbolizing Jesus washing the feet of His Apostles. Jesus did this to show His love and concern. Finally, we tasted the bread and the juice to remember Jesus.

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Closing Prayer: Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ. Through His death and resurrection we receive a life that shall never end. Help that life grow in us when we receive the Bread and Cup of Life. This we ask you through your Son Jesus and through the Spirit of love who lives in our hearts. Amen.

{Slide 7 - Optional Video - Holy Thursday - 3:19 min}

