



# Holy Thursday, Last Supper: Service to All A Meal Ritual

## Table Center

Crown, small towel(s), empty bowl, pitcher of warm water, loaf of bread, jug of grape juice or wine, lit candle

## Preparation

It is the start of the Triduum and a time of fasting begins after the Eucharistic liturgy at the parish. Serve a simple meal: fresh bread and soup, cold cuts or baked beans and cheese biscuits. A slow cooker or crock pot works well to keep soup or beans warm without fear of burning them.

## ✝ We Gather...

*We gather at this table to remember and so to make present again the loving actions of Jesus. Baptized in Christ (or as we prepare to be baptized in Christ) we are all called to love as Jesus loved, to forgive as Jesus forgave, and to serve as Jesus served. As a sign of our call to serve one another we begin our meal by washing each others hands.*

*Invite those gathered to pair up and wash and dry each other's hands.*

## ✝ We Tell the Story...

*Invite someone to proclaim the Scripture reading...*

Now make me completely happy! Live in harmony by showing love for each other. Be united in what you think, as if you were only one person. Don't be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. Care about them as much as you care about yourselves and think the same way that Christ Jesus thought. (Philippians 2:2-5)

## ✝ We Share a Meal...

*Place the meal on the table.*

*Pray together...*

Father all powerful and ever living God, bless this food and drink that you have so generously given to us. May it nourish us to be servants to all of your people and to one another, serving with humility and love. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord, through whom we live and move and have our being. Amen.

*As the meal is being shared, invite those gathered at the table to discuss...*

- How hard is it to serve others?
- How hard is it to allow others to serve you?
- How would it change the world if we were to think of others' interests before our own?

## ✚ We Go Forth...

*Conclude by saying...*

As we celebrate the holy feast of Eucharist this evening we are challenged to be Eucharist for others—to be bread blessed and broken and shared.

Let us pause to name for ourselves one way that we will try to humbly serve others in the upcoming week ...

Pause to invite everyone to name a way they feel called to serve others this week.

*We pray...*

*We extend our hands in blessing over one another as we pray:*

Servant God, bless us with strength and courage to be your serving presence in today's world. Through your grace anything is possible. We ask this prayer through Jesus, the bread of life and master servant. Amen.

