

# Mass of the Lord's Supper

IN A GESTURE pregnant with meaning just before the highly significant Passover meal, Jesus totally disrupted the traditional expectations of his time and culture. He stunned his disciples by insisting on serving them in the most deferential of ways: washing their feet. This deepest measure of service for others is how we must also prepare ourselves for the Easter Triduum. “For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”

Pope Francis has understood Jesus' message. The Supreme Pontiff shocked the world by visiting a Roman jail on this high feast day. He then kissed the feet of (imagine this!) young prisoners. He bent the liturgical arc of

this teaching moment precisely by washing the feet of those who were never previously included in such ceremonies: two women and several Muslims.

Who are those who feel most-excluded in the Church by our cultural traditions, our religious creeds and beliefs? Whom should we kneel before and try to heal on this Holy Thursday? The acquaintance struggling with addictions? The young woman considering abortion? The elderly person in pain, considering assisted dying? I wonder if such a sinner as I could follow Jesus' example and make my Easter practice the inclusion and service of the individuals most in need in my society.

*Joe Gunn, Ottawa, ON*

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*Roman Missal p. 281; Sunday Lectionary p. 256*

### **Entrance Antiphon** (*Cf. Galatians 6.14*)

**We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.**

### **Introductory Rites** (p. 5)

#### **Collect**

O God, who have called us to participate in this most sacred Supper, in which your Only Begotten Son, when about to hand himself over to death, entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of his love, grant, we pray, that we may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and of life. 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.**

### **First Reading** (*Exodus 12.1-8, 11-14*)

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The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take

some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord.

The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

*Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 116)*

The cup of blessing that we bless  
is a sharing in the Blood of Christ.

R. **The cup of blessing that we bless  
is a sharing in the Blood of Christ.**

What shall I return to the · **Lord**  
for all his bounty to · **me**?  
I will lift up the cup of sal·**vation**  
and call on the name · **of\_the** Lord. R.

Precious in the sight of the · **Lord**  
is the death of his · **faithful\_ones**.  
I am your servant, the son of your · **servicing\_girl**.  
You have loosed · **my** bonds. R.

I will offer to you a thanksgiving · **sacrifice**  
and call on the name of the · **Lord**.  
I will pay my vows to the · **Lord**  
in the presence of all · **his** people. R.

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**Second Reading (1 Corinthians 11.23-26)**—————

Brothers and sisters: I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my Body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way he took the cup also, 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 Lord’s death until he comes.

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

**Gospel Acclamation** (*John 13.34*)

**Praise to you, Lord, king of eternal glory!** I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. **Praise to you, Lord, king of eternal glory!**

**Gospel** (*John 13.1-15*)

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, put on his robe, and returned to the table, Jesus said to them, "Do you know what I have done to

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you? You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Profession of Faith is omitted.*

### **The Washing of Feet (Optional)**

*During the washing of feet, an appropriate song may be sung.*

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

*The following intentions are suggestions only. There are more suggestions at [www.livingwithchrist.ca](http://www.livingwithchrist.ca)*

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Church, witness to true love and service in Christ, we pray to the Lord: R.

For world leaders, trusted by their people to promote justice and human dignity through true service, we pray to the Lord: R.

For all who suffer from our greed and selfishness, we pray to the Lord: R.

For us, the Body of Christ, called to pour out our lives for others as Jesus did for us, we pray to the Lord: R.

### **Preparation of the Gifts (p. 10)**

### Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated, the work of our redemption is accomplished. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Preface (*Holy Eucharist I, p. 11*)

#### Communion Antiphon (*1 Corinthians 11.24-25*)

**This is the Body that will be given up for you; this is the Chalice of the new covenant in my Blood, says the Lord; do this, whenever you receive it, in memory of me.**

### Prayer after Communion

Grant, almighty God, that, just as we are renewed by the Supper of your Son in this present age, so we may enjoy his banquet for all eternity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Transfer of the Holy Eucharist

*The Blessed Sacrament is carried through the church to the place of repose. During the procession, the hymn Pange Lingua (p. 32, stanzas 1-4) or another eucharistic song is sung. At the place of repose, the presider incenses the Blessed Sacrament, while Tantum ergo Sacramentum (Pange Lingua, stanzas 5-6) or another eucharistic song is sung. The tabernacle of repose is then closed.*

*After a period of silent adoration, the priests and ministers of the altar retire. The faithful are encouraged to continue adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for a suitable period of time. There should be no solemn adoration after midnight.*

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## Hail Our Saviour's Glorious Body (*Pange Lingua*)

Hail our Sa - viour's glo - rious Bo - dy,  
Which his Vir - gin Mo - ther bore; -  
Hail the Blood which, shed for sin - ners,  
Did a bro - ken world re - store; -  
Hail the sac - ra - ment most ho - ly,  
Flesh and Blood of - Christ a - dore.  
A - men.

2. To the Virgin, for our healing,  
His own Son the Father sends;  
From the Father's love proceeding  
Sower, seed and word descends;  
Wondrous life of Word incarnate  
With his greatest wonder ends.

3. On that paschal evening see him  
With the chosen twelve recline,  
To the old law still obedient  
In its feast of love divine;  
Love divine, the new law giving,  
Gives himself as Bread and Wine.
4. By his word the Word almighty  
Makes of bread his flesh indeed;  
Wine becomes his very life-blood;  
Faith God's living Word must heed!  
Faith alone may safely guide us  
Where the senses cannot lead!

*At the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament:*

5. Come, adore this wondrous presence;  
Bow to Christ, the source of grace!  
Here is kept the ancient promise  
Of God's earthly dwelling place!  
Sight is blind before God's glory,  
Faith alone may see God's face.
6. Glory be to God the Father,  
Praise to his co-equal Son,  
Adoration to the Spirit,  
Bond of love in God-head one!  
Blest be God by all creation  
Joyously while ages run! Amen.

**Text:** *Pange Lingua*, Thomas Aquinas, 1227-74; tr. James Quinn, SJ (1919-2010). Used by permission of Oregon Catholic Press.

**Tune:** PANGE LINGUA, 87.87.87. Music: *CBW II* 583; *CBW III* 381