

EASTER TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY From the Mass of the Lord's Supper

On this day, we celebrate Christ's two-fold giving of himself.

Firstly, of his own free will, Jesus chose to seek and respond to the will of his Father. He gave the whole of his life for the life of the world, culminating in his death on the Cross.

In his self-giving in this sacrifice, Jesus himself is the Paschal Victim.

The Jewish people understood the significance of the total giving of a life to represent their own self-giving to God and of their desire for God's merciful regard for them. In Egypt, the blood of the lamb sacrificed in honour of the Lord and marking the doorposts and lintel of their homes was the sign of their desire for God to save them from slavery and death. It was also the sign of God's power and unrelenting fidelity and desire to save his people.

Jesus' own life-blood given of his own free will in his death on the Cross is also the sign of God's fidelity to every person in every age and in every circumstance. Jesus the Christ reveals the Mystery of our God who loves each person intimately and providentially cares for the good of all and all creation. We are drawn to God who seeks to free us from our own bondage to separation from God which sin effects. We are called to grow through the Spirit, in faith, hope and love in our own lives choosing freely to participate in the Paschal Mystery. Through the Spirit, we will never be alone.

Secondly, for his disciples in every age – the church – Jesus took the signs of bread and wine from the Memorial of the Passover transforming how people perceived them to give us his Real Presence, the Sacrament of both his own self-giving on the Cross and of his Father's fidelity to him through the Resurrection. "This is my body which is given us for you." With the riches of the Hebrews understanding of "Memorial", Jesus is with us in the community, the Word, the preaching and the fruits of the earth, the Bread and Wine, calling us daily - to 'do this (live this) in memory of him'. Through the Spirit, Christ Risen is present to us drawing us in the redemption and re-creation of our lives.

Jesus calls us to live this paschal mystery in our self-giving and service. Washing the feet of his disciples during the Last Passover Supper, Jesus calls us to action. In response to God's unrelenting desire to draw us to himself, Jesus calls us to make our self-giving the real motivation of our lives.

FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

FROM 12:1-8, 11-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "Say to the whole community of Israel. Each man must take an animal from the flock. Slaughter it. Some of the blood must be put on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where it is eaten. When I see the blood, I will pass over you and you shall escape the destroying plague when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day is to be a day of remembrance for you.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Psalm 115

OUR BLESSING CUP IS A COMMUNION WITH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?

The cup of salvation I will raise. I will call on the Lord's name.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I. You have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make. I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people.

OUR BLESSING CUP IS A COMMUNION WITH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this as a memorial of me."

In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me."

Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

The Word of the Lord.

**I GIVE YOU A NEW COMMANDMENT:
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.**

From the holy Gospel according to John

13:1-15

They were at supper. The devil had already put it into the mind of Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.

He got up from table, removed his outer garment and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist. He then poured water into a basin and washed the disciples' feet wiping them with the towel he was wearing.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "At the moment you do not know what I am doing.

Later you will understand.'

"Never!" said Peter, "You shall never wash my feet."

Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you can have nothing in common with me."

"Then Lord," said Simon Peter,

"not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well."

Jesus said, "No one who has taken a bath needs washing. He is clean all over.

You too are clean, though not all of you are."

He knew who was going to betray him, that was why he said,

"though not all of you are."

When he had washed their feet and put on his clothes again,
he went back to the table.

"Do you understand what I have done to You?

You call me master and Lord, and rightly. So I am.

If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet,
you should wash each other's feet.

I have given you an example

so that you may copy what I have done to you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Transfer of the Blessed Sacrament Watching at the place of repose

The Church's celebration of the Paschal Triduum is a remembering (anamnesis) of the events of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection. It is not a historical re-enactment nor the telling of a story where the ending is not known. The events are both ritualised and celebrated given the reality of Christ's Resurrection.

At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist is taken in procession from where Mass has been celebrated to the place of repose for a period of watching and adoration.

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved so that Holy Communion may be distributed at the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday.

This is a time of watching, of adoration.
We can remember the events following the Lord's Supper.
It is a time of our personal prayer.
No words are said by the Priest following the Prayer after Communion.

We can bring the needs of all who are anxious and are suffering to Christ Risen whom the disciples recognized in the breaking of the bread on their way to Emmaus.

People who are serving people at risk around the world at the moment during this time of Coronavirus are the scientists, the healthcare workers and the essential workers. To varying degrees, some need to place their lives at great risk.

Loving God,

we place into your care

all our scientists, doctors, nurses, healthcare and essential workers.

Give them courage of heart, strength of mind and heart, and patience.

Keep them and their families safe from harm.

May they know our deep gratitude for all they are doing

to heal and help all affected by the coronavirus.

God of all consolation, may they know your protection and peace. Amen

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It is not a historical re-enactment nor the telling of a story where the ending is not known.
The events are both ritualised and celebrated given the reality of Christ's Resurrection.

In this period of watching, we can remember the events following the Lord's Supper.
We can bring the needs of all who are anxious and are suffering to Christ Risen

whom the disciples recognised in Christ whom they met on the way to Emmaus.

We can pray for many *during this time of the Coronavirus COVID-19*

A Prayer for Healthcare Workers

*Loving God,
we place into your care
all our doctors, nurses and healthcare workers.
Give them courage of heart and strength of mind and body.
Keep them safe from harm.
May they know our deep gratitude for all they are doing
to heal and help those affected by the coronavirus.
God of all consolation
may they know your protection and peace.
Bless them in these challenging days and bless their families.
Amen.*

