

## A Maundy Thursday Celebration at Home!

Whenever you sit down for dinner, gather some of these supplies and work through this at-home liturgy to remember the Last Supper around your dinner table!

What you need:

- Your favorite meal or foods—anything counts! Macaroni and cheese, steak, cake, you name it!
- Candle

When everyone is gathered read the parts in bold out loud, and do the action described in italics. You can have one person reading, or share reading responsibilities with others around you. Everyone can participate!

**When we “break bread” together as a church in our worship, we remember that Jesus invited folks to his table as part of his ministry, not just at the Last Supper. So our church wanted to create a way for all of us to break bread together with whatever we have at our homes. That’s why tonight, we prepared some of our favorite foods!**

**Jesus used the parable of a great banquet to which all people are invited in order to talk about what the family of God, looks like. He said, “Go to the highways and back alleys and *urge* people to come in so that my house will be filled.” He often invited the most unlikely guests to his meal-times, confusing the disciples. In this way, he was encouraging a deep love and connection beyond social norms. He knew that we humans need connection and inclusion. Jesus comforts us, saying “you have a place at the table” and Jesus challenges us to make sure we are doing the same—that all people know they are welcome in our hearts, in our homes, in our churches—even if we can’t physically be with each other right now.**

**It is still difficult not to be near some of the people we love and might be worried about. Take a moment and say out loud the names of people you wish were right there next to us at your table today.**

*[pause and allow people a minute to do so; you may want to add specific names of people in your community at this moment who are sick]*

**Jesus is no longer physically on earth, yet every time we gather around a table and we call him to mind, he is present with us in Spirit. And so too, our loved ones are with us. Let this be a comfort to us.**

**We also want to call to mind, the people we cannot name, whose names we do not know. But we know they need our prayers and God’s comfort.**

*Pray aloud and in your heart for:*

**For those who have lost loved ones**

For those who are sick and recovering  
For those who are caring for loved ones who are sick at home  
For those who are caring for persons in medical care  
For those who are separated from loved ones  
For those who are feeling alone and isolated  
For those who are helping and are so very tired  
For those who are struggling to find friends, food, and comfort  
For those who are afraid

*[add other categories as feels right for your family]*

And so, we take a deep breath on behalf of all those we do not know and cannot call by name. As we do so, we know that *God* knows who needs our prayers and the Spirit, Breath of God, is blowing from within us outward as a Spirit of Compassion and Presence *[pause to take a couple of deep and audible breaths]*

Blessings at the table are part of our faith heritage. Indeed, Jesus adapted his Jewish ritual blessing spoken before and after meals. He asked us to remember him whenever we break bread and raise a cup in thanksgiving. *[Pull close a plate of food and cup of coffee/tea]* This is why we call our communion prayers the “*Great Thanksgiving*.” In this feast of love and comfort, we can call to mind things for which we are deeply grateful. Let’s speak aloud a couple of things that we are grateful for in this moment. *[pause to allow time to speak gratitude]*

And so I invite you to raise a something you like to eat from your table, or a glass of whatever you are drinking, *[give folks a moment to do this]* and let us bless it in this way, repeating after me:

Holy Comforter

Holy Comforter *[continue to repeat the next lines in this way]*

We gather in your name...

invited by Jesus...

bound together with your Spirit...

in union with each other...

Feed our bodies and our spirits...

with your comforting presence...

so that we might be your comfort to others...

Bless this food...

and break open our hearts...

Bless this drink...

and pour out your love...

Amen...

As we pass and fill our plates, getting ready to continue to eat this yummy food, imagine what extravagant love looks like as you reach across the social distance to loved ones, to friends, and even acquaintances or strangers.

May the peace and comfort of Christ be present with us now and forevermore. Amen.

