



Holy Thursday Virtual Dinner Church

This is an opportunity to create an intimate virtual worship experience. Beforehand, send instructions to participants via email. Invite people to prepare dinner at home, set the table to be warm and inviting, and practice setting up a computer, tablet or phone at the table so they can do fellowship online during the meal. Let people know you will be celebrating the Love Feast and ask them to have some bread or crackers and something to drink such as water, lemonade, or juice, and a candle or light on the table. As the host, you will need to prepare these things too. It is helpful to send the order of worship ahead of time so that people have the scripture, questions and responses at hand (a template is offered). ZOOM, Facebook live, or other streaming technology may be used to host dinner church virtually. ZOOM is the most interactive. Facebook live or streaming will allow participants to see the host and participate by typing comments, but the host will not be able to see the participants. Ahead of time, you may want to ask different participants to do the scripture readings.

Welcome

Welcome to this Holy Thursday celebration. This evening, we remember and celebrate Jesus' last night with his disciples. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Welcome to this feast of love.

Scripture Passage: Luke 22:7-14

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. Luke 22:7-14

Invitation to the Feast

Throughout his ministry Jesus ate meals in the homes of many, some family and friends, other times strangers. These meals were an opportunity for Jesus to share love. Today you have invited Jesus to come to the table at your homes to share in this meal with you. If you are a table for one or a table of many, Jesus has joined you for this special meal.

Table Grace

Be present at our table, Lord;
Be here and everywhere adored;
Thy creatures bless and grant that we
May feast in paradise with Thee.

Fellowship

Invite your participants to enjoy their meal at this time and to address the icebreaker questions. You will read the icebreaker questions aloud. If you are using ZOOM, ask participants to mute their audio unless they are speaking to the whole group to minimize background noise. If you have a lot of participants, consider using breakout groups at this time. Make sure everyone has the questions ahead of time so they can lead their own discussions. If you are livestreaming,



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people can type their responses to the questions and/or have discussion with those at home. The leader should have someone verbally acknowledge any comments made during this time. Allow no more than 10 minutes for icebreaker questions.

Breaking The Ice

Questions: What emotions are stirred up when someone invites you to share a meal with them? When you're really hungry, what is your go-to food?

Scripture | Read Luke 22:14-22

And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

And likewise, the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

Wrestling With The Word

Follow the same format as you did above with the icebreaker questions. This portion will take about 10 minutes also.

Questions: Listen in to Jesus' conversation with his disciples. Jesus has a strong desire to spend this evening with his followers. Is this surprising? What distracts you from God who desires a loving, honest and constructive conversation with you?

Imagine that scene with Jesus' disciples as he changes the meaning of the Passover meal. Put yourself in the shoes of a disciple at the table. What would you be thinking and feeling as Jesus infuses new meaning into a treasured tradition? How do you understand "New Covenant" in his body and blood? Do you do something consistently to remind you of something or someone? Jesus tells us "Do this in remembrance of me." Why do you think Jesus sees it necessary to remind us?

Today we are practicing the Love Feast - a meal celebrating fellowship and unity while remembering the meals that Jesus shared with his disciples during his ministry.

Love Feast

The pastor gets everyone's attention to begin the Love Feast. If you have been in breakout groups on Zoom, return everyone to one group.

Love Feasts include the sharing of cake, crackers or bread and a beverage, traditionally water.

As we join together as a community of faith with whom Christ is present, we set symbols on our table to remind us of his promises to us.





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A candle (or light), to remind us of the way, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Bread, symbol to remind us of God's love, "I am the bread of life. The bread that I shall give is myself for the life of the world."

A cup, representing the cup of salvation. "Through this, we remember Jesus' love that is poured out for all of us."

God, we welcome your presence with us. May the food and companionship we share nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. And may our spirits be refreshed. As we live in the light of your presence. With us now, and at all times and places.

As you break bread and drink of these cups, and let us be reminded that

God loves you...God loves all of us. Amen.

Thanksgiving

We thank you Lord, for giving us this special meal, for giving us your presence and your life and for reminding us of your everlasting grace, which will be celebrated for all eternity. Amen.



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