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Maundy Thursday – Jesus' Last Supper
A Meal of Remembering

Shelter-in-Place Meditations for Thursday, April 9, 2020
(or whenever & wherever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray during Holy Week)

What You Need:

- Bread, crackers, a muffin, or cake (a baked good, if possible)
- A drink for each person present & one extra
- Additional food for your meal or a snack

Prepare Your Meal

Tonight, we focus on Jesus' final supper, the model of our Communion service today. Perhaps light a candle and sit near a window where you can look out into the world and where your light may shine as a comfort to others. Gather your household or eat alone. You may choose to assign sections for each person to read or enact.

Prepare your meal, bread, and drink.

Prepare an additional cup or perhaps set an extra place at an empty chair to represent the community of Christ gathered in Spirit. On this night, none of us eat alone. We are all welcome at Christ's table of remembering.

Imagine

The table is set and low. Friends and companions are gathered around it. Light glows from oil lamps. The host of the house and his family are directing food preparation and serving the table. Inhale and enjoy the aroma of the food. You sit at the table with one who will betray Jesus, one who will deny him, ones who argue and compete for his attention, one who loves him dearly. Here are his students, his friends and benefactors, and his family. And you. Tonight, you work and serve and shelter in place with the one who calls you to life ….

The Bread

Pick up the bread (in whatever form) and read the following text.

A Reading and Reflection from 1 Corinthians 11:23-24 and John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

One: For 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."

ALL: The word of our Lord. Thanks be to God.

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One: Tonight, this bread is bread of remembering. Tonight, we remember the gift of Jesus' life and teachings. We remember how Jesus modeled for us to be in relationship with each other and with our God. Tonight, Jesus calls us to a new commandment, "that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Break or cut the bread into pieces and share it if you are with others.

Leave a piece of bread at the empty chair as a sign of the welcome and hospitality of Christ's table to the world.

Silent Reflection

One: Thanks be to God for the broken bread.

ALL: Amen

The Meal

Enjoy your meal or snack. Eat slowly…chew the food and enjoy its flavor...savor the experience….

Reflect on the story so far. What draws your attention? Who are you at this table with Jesus? What question do you have for him? What reassurance do you desire? What do you remember? *Share your thoughts with one another, reflect silently, or write or draw them.*

The Cup

When the meal ends, pick up the drink and read the following text.

A Reading and Reflection from 1 Corinthians 11:25 (NRSV)

One: In the same way Jesus 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."

ALL: The word of our Lord. Thanks be to God.

One: Tonight, with members of the Body of Christ around the globe, we drink deeply as we hold to the promise that Jesus' life and love flows through us, nourishing us, sustaining us, and comforting us in the face of illness and death. Tonight, we bear witness to God's love poured abundantly into the world through the hands and feet, hearts and minds of each person works and serves and shelters-at-home.

ALL: We drink this cup of the new covenant and renew our baptismal promise to follow Christ faithfully, compassionately, and with generous love.

All drink from their cups.

Silent Reflection

One: Thanks be to God for the cup.

ALL: Thanks be to God for the table of communion. Amen

You may eat the remaining bread and drink the extra cup or take them outside and reverently return them to the earth as a blessing.