

REMEMBERING MAUNDY THURSDAY AT HOME

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PREPARING FOR THE MEAL

Consider: On this night, Jesus gathered with his friends for a very special meal.

- » Choose and prepare together a “special” meal; perhaps a favorite recipe or a special dish you normally reserve only for holidays.
- » Set the table as you would when welcoming a special guest to dinner.
- » Light candles to begin the meal and say the following prayer:

*Holy God, draw us into worship with a spirit of humility. Let us gather with open hearts prepared to love, even to the point of breaking, as we seek to receive this story with our whole selves. In drawing closer to Christ and his crucified love, may we draw closer to you and your beloved world. Amen.**

DINING TOGETHER

Consider: Jesus and his friends would have spent time during the meal reflecting on their own faith journey.

- » Take the opportunity to share together why this night is special.
- » Some ideas: Share together the story of the Exodus; or the storyline of the Dreamworks movie *Prince of Egypt*. Share together the story of Jesus washing his friend’s feet; or the scene from *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Share the name of someone you wish were at the table with you tonight. If you feel comfortable, share why.

Consider: At the end of the meal, Jesus washed the feet of his friends.

- » Take the opportunity to share what it looks like to serve others in a time when physical distancing is in place.

Consider: Jesus invited his friends to experience bread and wine in a new way.

- » Take the opportunity to share how God is inviting you to see or experience life in a new way.

ENDING THE MEAL

Consider: As the meal ends, Jesus left to pray in the Garden and would soon be arrested, tried, and crucified.

- » Recite together the following portion of Psalm 22.

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?
O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.
Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.
They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
“He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”
Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.
I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.
Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.*

- » Following the Psalm, collect up the dishes in silence and take them to the kitchen.
- » Wash the dishes by hand together, taking turns washing, drying, and putting the dishes away.
- » When the table is clear and all the dishes are washed and put away, extinguish the candles in silence.