

Holy Thursday School Prayer Service

Introduction:

Good morning/afternoon, and welcome to our Holy Thursday prayer service. This past Sunday, we celebrated Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. He was welcomed by people waving palms, shouting, "Hosanna to our King!" This evening is the beginning of our three holiest days of the year: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. These three days make up what is called the Easter Triduum.

Tonight, at the Holy Thursday Mass, we will hear how Jesus the Lord took off his outer robes and knelt down to wash his disciples' feet after giving them the gift of his body and blood at the Last Supper. Tomorrow, we will solemnly celebrate Jesus' great act of love for us through His suffering and death on the Cross. On Saturday evening and Sunday morning, we will celebrate Jesus' Easter resurrection from the dead.

OPENING SONG

Let us enter into the spirit of this Holy Thursday, which begins these three most holy days, with our opening song. Please join in singing _____ (See suggested list at end)

OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin our prayer: In the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
God our Father, today we celebrate how your Son Jesus gave us his body and blood before giving up his life so that we might have everlasting life with you. Open our hearts, that we might learn to live as his disciples and follow his example of self-giving love. We ask you this in Jesus' name. Amen.

And now, let us be attentive to God's word.

READING

A reading from the Gospel of John

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, put on his robe, and returned to the table, Jesus said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE

The response to each verse is, ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus, Saviour of the world!***

Let us praise Jesus,
Who came down from heaven
To live among us
As one who serves. **R**

Let us praise Jesus,
Who is with us forever
In the precious gift
Of his body and blood. **R**

Let us praise Jesus,
Who opened our door
To eternal life
By dying and rising. **R**

Let us praise Jesus,
Who makes all things new –
Lord and Saviour
Of all the earth's peoples. **R**

OPTIONAL: SONG/VISUAL PRESENTATION

Prayer of the Faithful:

Let us pray for the Church. That all its members might come to a deeper love for the gift of Jesus' body and blood. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the world. For an end to war, greed and all that keeps people from living in the hope that Jesus brings. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all those who suffer. That God might send them relief and peace. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for our parents, grandparents, caregivers, priests, teachers and school staff. That God might protect them and fill them with the peace of Christ in this Holy Week and Easter. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for ourselves, that the love and hope of Jesus will burn in our hearts always. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our own intentions. *We pray... Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us now join all the prayers we have spoken out loud, and all the prayers in our hearts together with the prayer of Jesus, using the words he gave us: ***Our Father...***

CLOSING PRAYER

God our Father, in your overflowing love, you sent us Jesus to feed us with his body and blood, and lead us home to you. May these holy days open our hearts to receive all that you long to give us, and to live in the peace of Jesus, your Son. We make this prayer to you in His holy name. Amen. And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

CLOSING SONG (See suggested list below)

Suggested Holy Thursday Hymns

The Lord Jesus (Carey Landrey)
Lord of Creation, To You Be All Praise
Praise to You, O Christ, Our Saviour
Come and Journey With a Saviour
Gift of Finest Wheat

All Glory, Laud and Honour
Christians, Let us Love One Another
Ubi Caritas
Whatsoever you Do
I am the Bread of Life
I am the Living Bread

In the Breaking of the Bread
I Will Raise Him/You Up
Gift of Finest Wheat
There's a Wideness to God's Mercy
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name