



# MAUNDY<sup>1</sup> THURSDAY

## The Last Supper

On Thursday noon or Thursday evening, as is most appropriate, the head of the family will gather everyone around the family table for a festive meal.

This is to remember the meal at which **Jesus instituted the Eucharist.**

There are many meals in the Bible because the meal is a moment of sharing and communion. It was during a wedding meal at Cana that Jesus performed his first miracle.

The Passover meal is special because it commemorates the exit from Egypt.

It is on this basis that we propose to live Holy Thursday. Ideally, we should have a beautiful table, a well-prepared meal (if possible with lamb, unleavened bread, some bitter herbs and wine).

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<sup>1</sup> Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means *command*, reflecting Jesus' words: "I give you a new commandment."

## Introduction to the meal (Stand)

At the beginning of the meal, all bless themselves, to remember that it is by the revealed name of Jesus Christ alone that we are saved (Acts 4:12): "For there is no other name under heaven given to men, by which we must be saved. "

**In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen**

**/ The head of the family may continue with these or other explanatory words if he wishes: /**

May the Lord Jesus help us to better understand what we are about to be deprived of tonight, the memorial of the Lord's Passover. During his earthly pilgrimage, Jesus fulfilled the rites of the Jewish feasts, in the presence of his parents, his Mother, his apostles and disciples. In this way, he manifested the real continuity between the old and the new Covenant. But he also broke with what was outdated: the animal sacrifices, the immolation of a paschal lamb, for it is **He, Christ, who is our Passover!** (cf. 1 Cor 5:7). On Holy Thursday, Jesus instituted the Eucharist in a Passover meal, which we cannot take part in because of the current situation, but which was prefigured in those ancient rites that only take on their full meaning in the Lord Jesus' Holy Supper.

## Reading from the book of Exodus (Sit)

### Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall stand at the head of your calendar; you shall reckon it the first month of the year. Tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth of this month every one of your families must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household. If a family is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join the nearest household in procuring one and shall share in the lamb in proportion to the number of persons who partake of it. The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present, it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight. They shall take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house in which they partake of the lamb. That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you shall eat like those who are in flight. It is the Passover of the LORD. For on this same night I will go through Egypt, striking down every firstborn of the land, both man and beast, and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt, I the LORD! But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you; thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you. This day shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution.

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## Sharing the Word of God

**/ If possible, a brief sharing of this word of God can be done. For this purpose, the following passage from the Gospel of St. Luke (4: 16-21) could be used as a starting point: /**

## Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 4:16-21 (Stand)

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of the Lord      *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

### Blessing of the meal

**/ Standing, the first blessing, as in St. Luke (Lk 22:17), may be of the wine; and recalling: /**

This is the glass of wine which we ask you, Lord, to bless; it symbolizes the entrance into the Passover meal in which you celebrated your own Passover by making everything new. As you took one of the cups of wine, you announced the blood that you would shed as a sacrifice to free us from Egypt, the house of bondage, that is, our sins:

**"Blessed are you, Lord, King of the universe, who give us the fruit of the vine to drink. "**

**/ The bread (optionally unleavened) may be blessed second, saying: /**

This is the bread that we ask you, Lord, to bless, as well as the whole meal we are about to eat; it symbolises the unleavened bread taken in haste by the people fleeing from Egypt, the bread that you will take back this evening at the liturgy of the Holy Supper to symbolise your body given up once and for all as a sacrifice for the redemption of the world:

**"Blessed are you, Lord, King of the universe, who give us this bread from the earth. "**

### Meal (Sit)

**/ During the meal, some bitter herbs (rocket or horseradish) may be eaten in a sandwich with bread, evoking the bitterness of the present /**

### Thanksgiving

**After exchanging a final glass of wine, the thanksgiving may be recited together standing with Psalm 18/89 or another psalm (from among Ps 112/113 - Ps 117/118); for example, by singing or proclaiming together the finale of each verse "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord":**

I have found David, my servant;  
with my holy oil I have anointed him.  
That my hand may always be with him;  
and that my arm may make him strong."

**R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

My faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him;  
and through my name shall his horn be exalted.  
He shall say of me, 'You are my father,

my God, the Rock, my savior!"

**R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**