

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper



First Reading † Exodus 12:1-8.11-14

The law for the Passover meal.

A reading from the Book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt,

‘This month must be the first of all the months for you, the first month of your year. Speak to the whole community of Israel saying,

‘On the tenth day of this month each man must take an animal from the flock for his family: one animal for each household. If the household is too small for the animal, he must join with his neighbour nearest to his house, depending on the number of persons.

When you choose the animal, you will take into account what each can eat. It must be an animal without blemish, a male, one year old; you shall take it either from the sheep or from the goats. You must keep it till the fourteenth day of the month when the whole assembly of the community of Israel will slaughter it at twilight.

They shall take some of the blood and put it on both doorposts and the lintel of the houses where it is eaten. That night, they shall eat meat, roasted over the fire, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

‘This is how you must eat it:
with a belt around your waist, your sandals on your feet
and your staff in your hand.

You must eat it hurriedly: it is a Passover for the Lord.

That night, I shall go through the land of Egypt and strike down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, human and animal alike, and I shall execute justice on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord!

The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are. When I see the blood I shall pass over you, and you will escape the destructive plague when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day must be commemorated by you, and you must keep it as a festival for the Lord. You must keep it as a feast-day for all generations; this is a decree for all time.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial # Psalm 115:12-13.15-18

Our blessing cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.

How can I repay the Lord
for all his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the name of the Lord.

Our blessing cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.

How precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I,
the child of your handmaid;
you have loosened my bonds.

Our blessing cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I will make;
I will call on the name of the Lord.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people.

Our blessing cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.

Second Reading # 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Until the Lord comes, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim his death.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

For the tradition I received from the Lord and also handed on to you is that on the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and after he had given thanks, he broke it, and he said,

‘This is my body, which is for you;
do this in remembrance of me.’

And in the same way with the cup after supper, saying,

‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.’

As often as you eat this bread, then, and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the Lord’s death until he comes.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation # John 13:34

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel † John 13:1-15

To the end he showed his love for them.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Before the festival of the Passover, Jesus, knowing that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father, having loved those who were his in the world, loved them to the end.

They were at supper, and the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot son of Simon, to betray him. Jesus, knowing that the Father had put everything into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, got up from the table, removed his outer garments and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel wrapped round his waist.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?'

Jesus answered,

'At the moment you do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand.'

Peter said,

'You shall never wash my feet.'

Jesus replied,

'If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.'

Simon Peter said,

'Lord, not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!'

Jesus said to him,

'No one who has had a bath needs washing except for the feet. Such a person is entirely clean. You too are clean, though not all of you.'

He knew who was to betray him. That was why he said, 'though not all of you'.

When he had washed their feet he put on his outer garments and reclined again at the table. He said to them,

'Do you know what I have done to you?

You call me Teacher and Lord, and rightly, for so I am.

If I, then, the Teacher and Lord, have washed your feet,
you also ought to wash one another's feet.

I have given you an example so that as I have done to you, you also should do.

The Gospel of the Lord.