

## Holy Thursday Liturgy of the Word



### **Introduction:**

Today we begin the most important three days of the Church year. These days are known as the Triduum. During these days we will celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus. These are very holy days. A time to let go of all the daily distractions and to reflect on what a gift Jesus gave us, the gift of eternal life.

It is our duty then as Christians to pay glory to the cross of Jesus. He saves us and sets us free. Through him we will find salvation, life and resurrection.

Opening hymn: Here I am Lord (your choice)

### **Opening Prayer:**

Let us begin by signing ourselves in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

### **A Reading from St. Paul's First letter to the Corinthians (11:23-26)**

Brothers and sisters: 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."

In the same way he 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." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord.

### **Responsorial Psalm 116**

The response is: "The cup of blessing that we bless is a sharing in the blood of Christ"

What shall I return to the Lord  
For all his bounty to me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation  
And call on the name of the Lord. *R*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones  
O' Lord I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your servant-girl  
You have loosed my bonds. *R*

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
And call on the name of the Lord  
I will pay my vows to the Lord  
In the presence of all his people. *R*

### **Gospel**

#### **John 13:1-15**

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come  
to pass from this world to the Father.

He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.

The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over.

So, during supper,

fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power  
and that he had come from God and was returning to God,  
he rose from supper and took off his outer garments.

He took a towel and tied it around his waist.

Then he poured water into a basin

and began to wash the disciples' feet

and dry them with the towel around his waist.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

"Master, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him,

"What I am doing, you do not understand now,  
but you will understand later."

Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered him,  
"Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me."  
Simon Peter said to him,  
"Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well."  
Jesus said to him,  
"Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed,  
for he is clean all over;  
so you are clean, but not all."  
For he knew who would betray him;  
for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."

So when he had washed their feet  
and put his garments back on and reclined at table again,  
he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you?  
You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am.  
If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet,  
you ought to wash one another's feet.  
I have given you a model to follow,  
so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

**For Reflection: (To be read by a Principal/Teacher)**

In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul invites us to eat the bread of life in remembrance of Jesus and to drink the cup of salvation as often as possible until Jesus comes again in glory.

We are invited in the next three days to take part in and reflect on the great Feast of Easter when Jesus suffered, died and rose for all of us.

Jesus' reasons for his actions were simple: LOVE

Love for all of us and love for his Father in heaven.

We are called to remember how unselfish Jesus is.

Let us try, as we gather to celebrate Easter this weekend, to be more like Jesus by showing love, respect and kindness to others, and by participating in the Eucharist in remembrance of all that Jesus has done for us.

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

**Response:** "Lord hear our prayer"

1. For the church, working to unite all nations.

We pray to the Lord

2. For those people who are without hope.

We pray to the Lord

3. For us, for God's people, who are trying to live and be like Jesus

We pray to the Lord

4. For those who are sick as well as for those who have died

We pray to the Lord

Let us pray with the words that Jesus taught us: Our father....

**Closing Song:**\_\_\_\_\_