

Dinner with the King

Maundy Thursday, 2020

The King is coming for dinner! We will be remembering the Last Supper in a new way. Think Downton Abbey meets the Passover meal. Here is how you can celebrate this holy meal. Below are some suggestions for making this a memorable evening for everyone. This meal is not intended to be eaten alone. If you are alone and feel comfortable, invite a friend or neighbor to join you. They do not have to be a Christian!

1) Prepare for the King:

- Clean the house.
- Set the table with the good stuff.
- Set a seat of honor for the King.
- Get dressed up.
- Be creative for welcoming the King (sing a song, decorate, etc).

2) Prepare the Meal:

- Serve whatever you'd like to offer the King.
- Designate a special cup/chalice and plate for the King.
- Set the King's cup and plate at His seat.
- Put bread on the King's plate and grape juice in the cup (not too much bread, but enough for those at the meal to share a piece; I recommend 1 or 2 dinner rolls).

3) Serve Dinner

- Begin with everyone standing at their seat.
- **Read the "Before Dinner" liturgy.**
- Be seated and enjoy!

4) During Dinner Conversation

- As you enjoy the meal, share 1 or 2 things you would like to thank the King for.
- Then share how you have experienced the presence of the King in your life. recently or at a special time in the past. How has He made Himself real to you?
- Once everyone has had a chance to share, **read the "During Dinner" liturgy.**
- Share a time when you have failed the King.
- Share what has your heart troubled tonight?

5) After Dinner

- **Read the "After Dinner" liturgy**
- Play the video on the website and participate in the Communion liturgy.
- Have head of the house lift up the bread and break it, then hold up the chalice at the proper times. (When the minister does it.)
- After the Lord's Prayer, have each person take a piece of the bread. Pass the cup to each person and say, "*The body and blood of Christ given for you.*" Dip the bread in the cup.
- Pray silently until the song on the video is over.
- When the video is over, **read the "Closing Prayer".**

6) Close

- Dispose of the left over bread and juice outside for the birds or eat them. They are sacred. Do not throw them in the garbage or down the sink.
- Place the cup in a special place in your home to remember your dinner with the King.

Before Dinner Liturgy

As everyone is standing around the table at their seat:

(If there are two people present, then have one reader do the odd, the other the even readings)

Reader 1: “What makes this night so special?”

Reader 2: “Tonight is special because we remember that King Jesus is always present with us. He is with us at this meal by the Spirit, just as He was with His disciples on the night before He was crucified.”

Reader 3: “What does King Jesus have to say to us tonight?”

Reader 4: “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds its fulfillment in the Kingdom of God.” – *Luke 22:15*

Reader 5: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Reader 1: Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called your friends, for everything I have learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Reader 2: You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name. This is my command: Love each other.” – *John 15:9-17*

Reader 3: “King Jesus, thank You for Your presence with us.

Reader 4: Thank You for loving us and calling us Your friends.

Reader 5: Thank You for this food and loved ones to share it with. Bless this evening in Your Holy Name, Amen.”

During Dinner Liturgy

Reader 1: “What makes this night so difficult?”

Reader 2: “It is difficult because on this night we remember that Jesus was betrayed by a close friend, abandoned by the rest, arrested, tortured and crucified.”

Reader 3: “How was He betrayed?”

Reader 4: “John’s Gospel tells us that during the meal, ‘Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me.”’

His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them He meant. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to Him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, ‘Ask Him which one He means.’”

Leaning back against Jesus, he asked, “Lord, who is it?”

Reader 5: Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered him.

“What you are about to do, do quickly,” Jesus told him, but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas took the bread, he went out. And it was night.” (*John 13:21-30*)

Reader 1: “Was Judas the only one to fail Jesus?”

Reader 2: “No. All of the disciples would abandon Jesus, even Peter.”

Reader 3: Jesus continued, “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Reader 4: Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.”

Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”

Reader 5: Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!” (*John 13:33-38*)

After Dinner Liturgy

Reader 1: “What gives us hope on a night like this?”

Reader 2: “Tonight we remember that just as we have prepared a place in our home (*point to the King’s place at the table*) for Jesus, so He has promised to prepare a place for us in His home.”

Reader 3: Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house there are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Reader 4: Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Reader 5: Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (*John 14:1-6*)

Play video from the website.

*Have **one person hold up the bread and cup** and the proper time, when the minister does.*

*After the Lord’s Prayer and during the song, have **each person take a piece of the bread.***

*Pass the cup around the table and say, “**The body and blood of Christ, given for you.**”*

*After everyone has had communion, **sit quietly, pray, or sing along** until the song is over.*

Closing Prayer

Reader 1: “Jesus prays to God for us: “I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those You have given me, for they are Yours. All I have is Yours, and all You have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.”

Reader 2: I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your name – the name You gave me –so that they may be one as we are one.” (*John 17:9-11*)

Reader 3: “I am coming to You now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them Your Word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.”

Reader 4: “My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth. As You sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.” (*John 17:13-19*)

Reader 5: “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in me and I am in You. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that You have sent me. I in them and You in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent me and have loved them even as You have loved me.” (*John 17:20-23*)

Reader 1: “Father I want those You have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory You have given me because You loved me before the creation of the world.”

Reader 2: “Righteous Father, though the world does not know You, I know You and they know that You have sent me. I have made You known to them and will continue to make You known in order that the love You have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” (*John 17:24-26*)

Reader 3: Thank You King Jesus for dying on the cross so my sin could be forgiven.

Reader 4: Thank You King Jesus for being with us tonight and always.

Reader 5: Thank You King Jesus for loving us and preparing a place to be with You forever.

All: Amen.