

REMEMBERING THE NIGHT BEFORE THE MASTER DIED

“Why is this night different from all other nights?”

This is the day, this is the night
when we remember the love of the Father
through Jesus His Son, Who gave Himself
as a lasting presence, a living memorial
of His great love for us.

Eternal Father, we offer You the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity
of Your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
In atonement for our sins
and for those of the whole world.



Hymn: *God and Man At Table Are Sat Down*

O welcome all you noble saints of old,
as now before your very eyes unfold,
The wonders all so long ago foretold.
God and man at table are sat down.

Elders, martyrs, all are falling down,
prophets, patriarchs are gathering round.
What angels longed to see; now we have found.
God and man at table are sat down.

Who is this that spreads the victory feast?
Who is this who makes our warring cease?
Jesus, Risen Savior, Prince of Peace,
God and man at table are sat down.

Beggars lame and harlots also here;
Repentant publicans are drawing near;
Wayward ones come home without a fear.
God and man at table are sat down.

Worship in the presence of the Lord;
With joyful songs and hearts of one accord,
And let our Host at table be adored.
God and man at table are sat down.

Here He gives Himself to us as bread.
Here as wine we drink the blood He shed.
Born to die, we eat and live instead.
God and man at table are sat down.

John 13: 1 – 15

Jesus rose from the meal and took off His cloak. He picked up a towel and tied it around Himself. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and dry them with the towel He had around Him. After He had washed their feet, He put His cloak back on and reclined at table once more. He said to them: "Do you understand what I just did for you? You address me as Teacher and Lord and fittingly enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your feet, I Who am Teacher and Lord, then you must also wash each other's feet. What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do.



Reflection - Susanna Metz

This is an incredibly poignant scene, but John didn't write this account just to tell his readers a nice story about Jesus. He included it in his Gospel because he understood what Jesus was doing. John understood that Jesus was teaching His followers, and ultimately each one of us, a very important lesson about ministry -- about living the way God wants us to live. Jesus, the consummate teacher, was showing His disciples that hospitality is basic to leading a godly life; that hospitality is a basic ingredient of true leadership.

In one way, Jesus' disciples would have understood what Jesus was doing when He washed their feet. In the culture of that time, any good host would make sure his guests' feet were washed by a servant when they entered the house. What would have surprised the disciples is that Jesus, the host, their rabbi, was washing their feet. That was part of Peter's objection to Jesus' washing of his feet. But Jesus was showing his disciples that true hospitality goes much deeper than basic good manners. In washing even Judas' feet, Jesus was extending hospitality, His acceptance, even to the one who would betray Him. Even though Jesus knew that Judas' act of betrayal would set into motion the events leading to His death, Jesus didn't push him out of the community. To the end, Jesus offered Judas a chance to change.

Jesus told His disciples: I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Jesus says the same thing to each one of us, and if He could include Judas, shouldn't we think very seriously about those we find it all too easy to exclude?

Many feet walk into our lives every day -- old feet, young feet, feet of different races, poor feet, children's feet, feet of the needy, feet of the arrogant, feet of the annoying, feet of those we love and feet of those we fear, feet of those who are like us and feet of those who aren't just like us. Whose feet would we be willing to wash? Whose feet would we rather not touch at all?

Jesus showed by His example that we really don't have a choice in the matter. If we have, through our baptism, promised to live a godly life, to live by Jesus' teachings, to respect the dignity of all God's creatures, then we must be willing, literally or figuratively, to wash everyone's feet, no matter what. We have to be willing to show that same hospitality, that same acceptance, to everyone, no matter what. Washing each other's feet can be an intimately loving act, but we must also remember that there are other consequences of that unconditional love. Judas didn't change his mind -- and tonight Jesus begins His final way to the cross.

Prayer

Where charity and love are found, there is God.
The love of Christ has gathered us together into one.
Let us rejoice and be glad in Him.
Let us fear and love the living God,
 And love each other from the depths of our heart.
Therefore when we are together,
 Let us take heed not to be divided in mind.
Let there be an end to bitterness and quarrels,
 an end to strife,
And in our midst be Christ our Lord.
And in the company with the blessed,
 May we see Your face in glory, Christ, our God,
 pure and unbounded joy
 for ever and ever. Amen.

A Litany

In the face of the addict,
 may we see the face of Christ,
In the face of the prostitute,
 may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the poor,
 may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the homeless,
 may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the migrant,
 may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the unjustly accused and imprisoned,
 may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the physically challenged,
 may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the elderly,
 may we see the face of Christ.

In the face of the abused,
may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the alcoholic,
may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of those denied a just wage,
may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of those ravaged by war,
may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the mentally challenged,
may we see the face of Christ,
In the face of the single mother,
may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the dispossessed,
may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of those who suffer persecution,
may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the victim of sexual discrimination,
may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the unborn child about to be aborted,
may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the hopeless,
may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of those who live under oppressive governments,
may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of the cast-off and unloved,
may we see the face of Christ.
In the face of those who are not perfect,
may we see the face of Christ.
In our own face,
may we see the face of Christ.

O merciful Lord, look graciously upon us and soften our hardened hearts.
Turn them from hearts of stone to hearts of flesh.
Help us to take on Your mind and heart
and to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need.
Help us to forgo being judgmental of others
and become people filled with a sense of gratitude and love
and a willingness to serve others in any way that we can
to make the lives of our brothers and sisters most just and tolerable.

May we be able to accept them as You
and may we be able to accept ourselves as well.
May we all come to know You, Lord Jesus. Amen.



Reading 1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26

I received from the Lord what I handed on to you,
namely that the Lord Jesus on the night in which He was betrayed
took bread and after He had given thanks, broke it and said,
“This is My Body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”
In the same way, after the supper,
He took the cup saying,
“This cup is the new Covenant in My Blood.
Do this. Whenever you drink it, you do it in remembrance of Me.”
Every time then, you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes.

Prayer

Response: Jesus, You are the Bread of Life. Bread broken that we may live.

As we gaze upon this sacred Bread, we recall that You, Lord Jesus, are our Bread of Life, our Eternal Manna.

It is You alone Who satisfies our hunger. You are broken that we may live.
You remind us not to work for food that goes bad but rather to work for food that endures for eternal life.

Response: Jesus, You are the Bread of Life. Bread broken that we may live.

What must we do if we are to carry out God’s work?

Jesus gave them this answer:

“This is carrying out God’s work:

You must believe in the One Who He has sent.”

Response: Jesus, You are the Bread of Life. Bread broken that we may live.

The true bread is the Bread of God.
It is the Bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.
Lord, give us that bread always.

Response: *Jesus, You are the Bread of Life. Bread broken that we may live.*

Jesus says:

“I am the Bread of Life.

No one who comes to Me will ever hunger;

No one who believes in Me will ever thirst.”

Jesus, give us the fullness of Your Bread of Life.

Fill us with the freedom of Your Spirit.

In imitation of Your mission and Gospel

May we be true manna for one another.

May You continue to be our Food and Strength for the journey.

Response: *Jesus, You are the Bread of Life. Bread broken that we may live.*

Hymn:

- Saint Thomas Aquinas 13th Century

Hail our Savior's glorious body,
Which His virgin mother bore;
Hail the blood, which shed for sinners,
Did a broken world restore.
Hail the sacrament most holy,
Flesh and blood of Christ adore!

To the virgin, for our healing,
His own Son, the Father sends;
From the Father's love proceeding
Sower, Seed and Word descends.
Wondrous Life and Word incarnate
With His greatest wonder ends.

On that paschal evening see Him
With the chosen twelve recline,
To the Law He is obedient
In its feast of love divine;
Love divine, the new law giving
Gives Himself as bread and wine.

Come, adore this wondrous presence;
Bow to Christ the source of grace!
Here is kept the ancient promise
Of God's earthly dwelling place!
Sight is blind before God's glory,
Faith alone may see His face.

Reflection by Saint John Baptist de La Salle

The love of Jesus Christ for us led Him to institute this divine sacrament in order to give Himself entirely to us and remain always with us. He knew that immediately afterward, He would suffer and die for us, and that this offering that He would make of Himself on the cross would occur only once, and that after His ascension into heaven, He would no longer appear among us. This was why, to give us a sign of His tender love and goodness before dying, He left to His apostles and to the entire Church in their persons His Body and Blood, to be for us in the ages to come, a precious proof of the tender love He feels for us. Receive this gift with respect and thanksgiving. Give Jesus love in return for His love. Unite yourself with Him.

Intercessions

Response: May we share Your Body, Your Spirit and Your Life with one another.

Jesus, You are the true Bread of Life.

In You we find our unity amidst diversity.

Through the Eucharist

May we grow in deeper appreciation of Your risen presence, Your Word, and

The countless ways that You invite us to fullness.

Response: May we share Your Bread, Your Spirit, and Your Life with one another.

Jesus, You were proclaimed by faithful women and men,

Preached through countless lives,

Loved by the simple,

Expounded by the learned,

Handed on throughout the centuries;

Continue to be our Strength and Sustenance.

Response: May we share Your Body Your Spirit and Your Life with one another.

Jesus, You were broken at different times,

In diverse settings and cultures.

Your bread and life transforms us into Your people.

Fashion our many grains today in our time

Into a community of believers who serve all of our brothers and sisters.

Response: May we share Your Body, Your Spirit, and Your Life with one another.

Jesus, let us be reminded of Your early followers:

May we remain faithful to the teaching of the apostles,

to the community, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers.

May we be filled with awe,

Share the faith, care for the widow and the orphan,

And each day, with one heart,

May we praise God.

Response: May we share Your Body, Your Spirit, and Your Life with one another.



Our blessing cup is a communion in the blood of Christ.
How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up and I will call upon the name of the Lord.

Taste and see, taste and see, the sweetness of the Lord.
Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Every time you eat this bread, every time you drink this cup,
You proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle
And all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
Inspire in us a profound respect and love for this august sacrament of love

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!