**Celebrating Holy Thursday at home with the Family**

**Preparation**

Seat yourselves in a circle. In the centre have a bowl of water, a towel, a loaf of bread and a lighted candle. This helps remind everyone of the events of the Last Supper.

Where the outline says ‘reader’ this can be done by various people. Before you start, remind the readers to pause wherever there is a comma or full stop. (Don’t stop the reader during the reading or even during the liturgy – once liturgy begins, it needs to flow.)

**Opening**

*If possible, sing together – maybe Come to the Water* or *Table of Plenty*

Reader: We begin with the sign of the cross.

In the name of the Father …. (Or)

Ki te ingoa o te Matua ….

Reader: Dear family, the whole Church comes together tonight to remember the meal Jesus shared on the night before he died. That night, he told us to take bread, break it and eat in remembrance of him. He also taught us to be servants of one another. Let us enter this evening celebration with good will toward each other and peace in our hearts.

Let us all be quiet for a moment and remember the things we would like to pray for. (2 min)

Reader: We pray: God of all creation, you nourish us every day with the food and drink that our bodies need. Tonight we gather to remember that meal you shared in the upper room. You took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to your disciples saying, this is my body. Take and eat it. We ask you to bless us as we come together to remember that night.

All: Amen.

*Reader:*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.

Reader: 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.”

Reader: 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: We can spend a few minutes in silence thinking about the Gospel. (1 min)

Let’s talk together for a few minutes. Here are some questions we could talk about.

* What did Jesus say?
* How did Peter react and why do you think he reacted that way.
* How you might have reacted if you were in Peter’s shoes
* Why did Jesus wash the feet of the people in that room?

**Prayer of the Faithful**

Reader: Thank you for sharing your thoughts. Now let us pray.

We pray for all families who because of the Corona virus must stay at home. We pray that they will be loving toward each other, that children and teenagers will continue with their schoolwork and that they will help out at home. We pray that family members will offer each other support in tough times.

*Lord hear us (****or****, e te Ariki).*

All: Lord hear our prayer, (**or** whakarongo mai rā kia mātou).

Reader: We pray for all believers: that we see the needs of other people and learn how to serve them.

*Lord hear us (****or****, e te Ariki).*

All: Lord hear our prayer, (**or** whakarongo mai rā kia mātou).

Reader: We pray for world leaders: that they make sure that people in all countries have enough food and drink to live healthy happy lives.

*Lord hear us (****or****, e te Ariki).*

All: Lord hear our prayer, (**or** whakarongo mai rā kia mātou).

Reader: We remember that this is a time to pray for the whole world. Who else do we want to pray for now?

*Lord hear us (****or****, e te Ariki).*

All: Lord hear our prayer, (**or** whakarongo mai rā kia mātou).

Reader: We pray for those who have died that they may rest in the loving presence of the Lord. Lord hear us.

*Lord hear us (****or****, e te Ariki).*

All: Lord hear our prayer, (**or** whakarongo mai rā kia mātou).

Reader: And now let us pray together as Jesus taught us:

*Everyone prays this together:*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.

Reader:  The Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil are three parts to one liturgy. In a sense, this Holy Thursday Liturgy has not ended. We await the reading of the Passion on Good Friday.

May God bring us together again tomorrow.

All: **We go in the peace of Christ.**

*Children will probably need something to eat now before bed. Perhaps you sing some of the music below.*

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| Songs for Holy Thursday | Youtube links |
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| Humbly we Adore Thee | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6B8Alnt8tk> |
| I am the bread of life | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7y-NZocIwo> |
| Jesu Jesu | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX3T5sL0pzY> |
| This is my commandment | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAkMhF3SdRA> |
| The Supper of the Lord | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdXoTdXe6dE> |
| The Servant Song | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlNoxoOocZs> |