



**Agapé Meal \***  
**April 9, 2020**  
**7:00pm**

*If you live alone, consider sharing this meal with a friend or another St. James' household on FaceTime, Skype or Zoom. Multiple households could prepare for this service and coordinate their celebration of it using a video conferencing platform such as Zoom, and take turns speaking the blessings.*

*A meatless meal is especially appropriate. Ideally the setting and the foods are simple. Appropriate foods include soup, cheese, olives, dried fruit, bread, and wine*

*The image below is an example of the room in which Jesus and his disciples shared the Passover.*



*If there are several persons present, one may serve as the leader or participants may take turns.*

### **+ The Blessings +**

*After a moment of silence, the leader offers the following blessings.*

#### **Over Wine (or grapejuice)**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. *Amen.*

#### **Over Bread (crackers, etc)**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and you have fed us on our way with the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. Let us be fed again soon with that bread of life. And as grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. *Amen.*

#### **Over the other Foods**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **+ The Meal +**

*The meal is now eaten. If several are gathered, they first serve one another, then dine.*

*During the meal, re-read John 13: 12-15*

“When he had washed the feet of his disciples, and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If you then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”

Those gathered for the meal, discuss what Jesus has asked us to do, in humbling ourselves to serve others. Specifically consider:

- What does it mean to serve another?
- Who do we know that needs to be served?
- How might we do that while observing the principles of social distancing?

## **+ Closing Reading and Prayers +**

*The following psalm is then said. If there is more than one voice, it is said in unison.*

Psalm 63:1-8

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place;  
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you,  
your right hand holds me fast.

First voice: The Lord be with you

Others: And also with you

First voice: Let us pray

O God of the crucified and risen One, from whom no trial or trouble can separate us: you feed us with your Word and soothe us with your Spirit, closer to us than breath itself.

Make us glad this night for the life of your servant Jesus;

Make us servants of all for the sake of Jesus;

who for our sake gave his life for the salvation of all.

In the Name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

*Amen.*

## **+ Watching with Jesus +**

Should you desire to reflect on the events of Jesus' betrayal and arrest, that took place immediately after the meal and foot washing with his disciples, you can find the story in Matthew 26: 30-56.

\*From the *Book of Occasional Services* 2018, adapted/edited by the Rev. Dr. James Farwell and Dr. Lisa Kimball for use when Maundy Thursday Eucharist is not possible. Appropriate adaptations for illness in the household can be made.

