

Agapé Feast

The setting should be simple. Appropriate foods include soup, cheese, olives, dried fruit, bread, and wine.

+ *The Blessings* +

After a time of silence, the presider offers the following blessings.

Over Wine

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. We thank you for your continued presence in our lives. You said “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. I will be their god; they shall be my people.” Glory to you for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over Bread

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. You said, “And no longer shall each one teach one’s neighbor and each one’s sibling, saying, “Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” 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 Eucharistic 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.*

+ *Discussion* +

What has been challenging to your spiritual life during this time?

What has been life-giving?

+ *The Word and the Prayers* +

At the end of the meal, the twenty-first chapter of the gospel of John is read.

A moment of silence is held.

Jill Moon will read this poem by Alvin Fine followed by a short meditation.

Birth is a beginning and death a destination;
But life is a journey.
A going, a growing from stage to stage:
From childhood to maturity and youth to old age.

From innocence to awareness and ignorance to knowing;
From foolishness to discretion and then perhaps, to wisdom.
From weakness to strength or strength to weakness and often back again.
From health to sickness and back we pray, to health again.

From offense to forgiveness, from loneliness to love,
From joy to gratitude, from pain to compassion.
From grief to understanding, from fear to faith;
From defeat to defeat to defeat, until, looking backward or ahead:

We see that victory lies not at some high place along the way,
But in having made the journey, stage by stage, a sacred pilgrimage.
Birth is a beginning and death a destination;
But life is a journey, a sacred pilgrimage,
Made stage by stage...To life everlasting.

Jesus asks: do you love me? "Feed my lambs."

Jesus asks: do you love me? "Tend my sheep."

Jesus asks: do you love me? "Follow me."

The following psalm is then said.

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.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

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.

Let us depart in peace. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

This Liturgy is constructed from “Agape for Maundy Thursday” from the Book of Occasional Services 2018. The liturgy was revised for the realities of the pandemic by the Rev. Dr. James Farwell and Dr. Lisa Kimball of the Virginia Theological Seminary. The liturgy was further revised for local use at the Church of the Advent, Medfield.