

Leader: Together with the Virgin Mary, let us praise God.

All: My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.
He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.

Leader: Lord God,
in times of darkness, be our light,
in times of pain, be our strength,
in times of isolation and anxiety,
draw us into the healing love of Christ
who shared our human weakness
to bring us to the glory of resurrection.

All: Amen.

All In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Finish by offering each member of your family a sign of peace.



HOLY WEEK AT HOME



HOLY THURSDAY

Bread and soup during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

In the evening, gather around the dining room table and, if possible, light a candle. When everyone is seated at the table, begin your prayer.

Tonight, we look forward to the coming days when Jesus Christ died and rose to new life.

FAMILY PRAYER

All In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry.' (Jn 6:35)

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said: 'This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.' In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.' Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Spend a few minutes in silence to reflect on Jesus' words.

What does St Paul mean when he says we are 'proclaiming his death'?

Leader: Today we are unable to take part with Fr Alan in the Mass of the Lord's Supper. But we can now join ourselves spiritually to Jesus Christ the Lord as he embarks on the journey of his passion and death.

All: Lord Jesus, we love you above all things. How we long to receive holy communion at the altar, to be one with you and all our brothers and sisters! Although we cannot now receive the blessed sacrament, come, be in our hearts. Live within us and give us life. Feed us with the manna of the Holy Spirit and never let us be separated from you. Amen.

Spend a time together in prayer.

Pray for those in need, especially those who are sick or who have died from the coronavirus. Remember those who are alone or frightened. Commend the members of your family to God's loving care. Intercede for those who are hungry and homeless.

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to pray:

All: 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. Amen.