

Holy Thursday

PREPARATION

Gather meaningful symbols . . .
(loaf of bread, candle on table
in the center – chalice/wine)



OPENING SONG

Select one from this list
or another of your choice

- “One Bread One Body” Foley, album Wood Hath Hope
- “All I Ask of You” Norbet, album Listen
- “I Have Loved You with an Everlasting Love” Joncas, album On Eagle’s Wings
- “Jesus, Jesus, fill us with your love” Tom Colvin (Ghana folk song)

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Let us reflect on the mystery of Eucharist, the mystery of Jesus giving his Body and Blood under the symbols of bread and wine. How this mystery occurs is God’s problem, not ours. We are here to contemplate the gift and accept the promise of God’s presence in the breaking of bread and sharing of wine.

Who is Jesus for you/me here today?
How can I let the mystery of Jesus’ presence “grasp me?”
(Silent reflection: 5-10 minutes)

Leader: In the Gospel of John the elements of Eucharist are offered for our nourishment. Eucharist means giving thanks and glory to God. Out of our silence, let us listen to the words of John’s Gospel. The discourse begins:

John 13:31-32 New American Bible

When He had left, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him. (If God is glorified in Him,) God will also glorify Him in Himself, and He will glorify Him at once.”

Silent reflection 2-3 minutes

RESPONSE TO READING

(Pass the lighted candle giving each person an opportunity to give thanks either silently or verbally as they hold the candle.)

Leader: Eucharist means unity. Jesus speaks often of this unity with the Father. He reminds the disciples of his unity with them in the image of the vine and branches.
Reading: John 15: 1-8

RESPONSE TO READING

“We Are One in the Spirit” (FEL. album) Sing vv. 1 and 4
“We are Many Parts,” Marty Haugen
“We Have Been Told,” David Hass
“Ubi Caritas Est Vera,” Bob Hurd

CONCLUSION

Leader: Let us celebrate our oneness and thanksgiving for this community gathering by sharing the bread made of many grains of wheat ground into flour, leavened and baked into one loaf, and share the wine from many grapes.

(Concluding action: Pass and share the bread. Let each person pronounce a blessing for the next person. Or pass the bread around the group before sharing it. Let each one pray a silent or verbal blessing – then receive the bread blessed by all.)

- Take the Chalice – all bless/share in silent blessing with your hands over cup

Leader: Let us conclude our common prayer today by sharing some sign of peace with each other.