

# HOLY THURSDAY

First Reading

EXODUS 12:1-8,11-14

## A Reading from the Scroll of Exodus

Moses and Aaron were in Egypt. The Lord said to them, “This month is to be the first month of the year for you. You must tell the people of Israel ‘On the tenth day of this month each man must choose either a lamb or a young goat for his family.’

If his family is too small to eat the whole animal, he must share an animal with his neighbor according to the number of people and how much each person can eat. You may choose either a sheep or a goat, but it must be a one-year old male without blemishes. Then on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, the whole community of Israel will kill the animals. The people are to take some of the blood, paint it on the doorposts and above the doors of the houses that the animals are to be eaten.

The night the meat is to be roasted and eaten with bitter herbs and with bread made without yeast. You are to eat the meat quickly. You must be dressed for travel, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. It is the Passover festival to honor me, the Lord.”

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On that night I will go through the land of Egypt, killing every first-born male, both human and animal and punish all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood on the doorposts will be a sign to show the houses in which you live. I will see the blood and I will pass over it. I will not harm you but I will punish the Egyptians. You must celebrate this day as a religious festival to remind you what I, the Lord, have done. Celebrate it for all time to come.”

## The Word of the Lord

Holy Thursday

**RESPONSE: The cup we share is the blood of Christ.**

How can I thank the Lord?  
The Lord gave me everything I need.  
He saved me, so I will give him a drink.  
I will call on his name.

**RESPONSE:**

For the people I will keep my promise to him.  
The death of good people is special to you.  
Lord, I am your servant.  
I worship you just as my mother did.

**RESPONSE:**

I will offer my thanks.  
I will pray to the Lord.  
I will keep my promises.

**RESPONSE:**

## A Reading of the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Paul said, “I have already told you what the Lord did on the night he was betrayed. This is what the Lord did.

He took the bread and gave thanks to God. Then he broke it and said, ‘This is my body given up for you. Eat this and do this in memory of me.’

Then Jesus took a cup of wine and said, ‘This is my blood and with this blood God makes his agreement with you. Drink it in my memory.’

This means that every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup you are to proclaim about his death until he comes.”

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honor to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, “Love one another as I love you.”

Praise and honor to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Gospel

JOHN 13:1-15

### A Reading from the Holy Gospel of John

The day before Passover Jesus knew it is time for him to leave the world and go back to his Father. He had always loved his people in the world.

Jesus and his disciples were having supper. The devil had already persuaded (convinced) Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him full power and that he is from God and he will go back to his Father.

During the meal Jesus stood up, took off his robe and tied a towel around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin, began to wash the feet of his disciples and dried the feet with the towel. He came to Peter. Peter said to Jesus, “Are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered, “You do not know what I am doing but you will understand.”

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Peter replied, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “If I do not wash your feet, you cannot be my disciple.” Peter said, “Wash not only my feet, but my hands and my head.” Jesus said, “People who have bathed do not need to wash again. All of you are clean, but one of you is not.” Jesus knew who will betray him. That is why he said ‘but one of you’.

Then Jesus stood up and put on his robe. He sat down at the table and asked them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘Lord’. You are right because I am your teacher and Lord. But I washed your feet like a servant. So you should wash each other’s feet. I gave you an example, so that you should what I have done to you.”

The Good News of the Lord

Holy Thursday