

Maundy Thursday

These prayers and reflections are most appropriate when you are having your evening meal, whether alone or with family members.

Before the meal say these words of grace:

"Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation:

Through your goodness we have good things to eat and drink.

Blessed be God for ever."

After the main course, read part of the story of the Last Supper:

"While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat, this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'"

Jesus' words and actions at the Last Supper look to the past, the present and the future. As a Passover meal it recalls God's saving work in history in bringing God's people to freedom. It is a gathering where Jesus is present with his friends. It looks forward to all that is to come, both the suffering and the glory.

Hold up a glass or cup of whatever you are drinking. As you do so, say aloud anything for which you are thankful, in the past or the present. Then name your fears and hopes for what is to come, and commend them to God, saying:

"Jesus, true vine and bread of life,
ever giving yourself that the world might live,
let us share your death and passion:
make us perfect in your love. Amen."