



Corpus Christi: This is My Body and Blood A Meal Ritual

Table Center

Loaf of bread, glass of grape juice or wine

Preparation

Prepare a meal today that requires some sacrifice on your part—serving some special foods that all may enjoy. Consider a traditional dish from your culture or other favorite foods that those gathered would enjoy. Serve the meal on your best dishes, perhaps even using glass or plastic wine goblets to serve water or juice in.

✝ We Gather...

Invite those gathered to share an experience of when someone gave them a gift of great value. It may have been the gift of time even though the giver did not have much time, or something the giver made that took a lot of time and effort, or perhaps it was the gift of support during a difficult time. Perhaps the gift may have cost the sharer something, either of monetary value or time or personal sacrifice. Perhaps the "sharing" was expected, or perhaps totally by surprise.

✝ We Tell the Story...

Invite someone to proclaim the Gospel reading...

It was the first day of the Festival of Thin Bread, and the Passover lambs were being

killed. Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal?"

Jesus said to two of the disciples, "Go into the city, where you will meet a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him, and when he goes into a house, say to the owner, 'Our teacher wants to know if you have a room where he can eat the Passover meal with his disciples.' The owner will take you upstairs and show you a large room furnished and ready for you to use. Prepare the meal there."

The two disciples went into the city and found everything just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover meal.

During the meal Jesus took some bread in his hands. He blessed the bread and broke it. Then he gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this. It is my body."

Jesus picked up a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. He gave it to his disciples, and they all drank some. Then he said, "This is my blood, which is poured out for many people, and with it God makes his agreement. From now on I will not drink any wine, until I drink new wine in God's kingdom." Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.
(Mark 14:12-16, 22-26, CEV)

✚ We Share a Meal...

Place the meal on the table.

Pray together...

Bless us Lord as we gather to break bread together through this meal. Bless the food we share. May it unite us in celebration of the gift of your life to us. Amen.

As the meal is being shared, invite those gathered at the table to discuss...

- Why do you think the person you talked about earlier shared with you? Did they gain anything by sharing with you?
- Why did Jesus do what he did? Did he gain from giving his life for us?

✚ We Go Forth...

Conclude by saying...

As we leave our meal, we ponder: how can we take the attitude of the self-giving love of Jesus and live for others like he did? Can we say to others, this is my life, let it be gift to you so that you too may live? As we live our lives this week, let us find moments during our day to pray in gratitude for being so loved by God that he gave us his only son. May we also seek moments to serve others.

We pray...

Jesus, you have given us the gift of your love and life. Walk with us as we seek to share love and life with others. Amen.

