



Meal Ritual Celebrating Holy Orders

Called to be Salt for the Earth

Table Center

Place a bowl of salt in the center of the table. Consider serving baked potatoes or other food whose taste is enhanced with salt.

We Gather...

We gather at this meal to consider what Jesus tells us about who we are to be for the world. I invite everyone to take a pinch of salt from the bowl, and place it in the palm of your hands. Put it between your fingers, feel it, and taste it. Share what you think about the following:

- Jesus used salt as a symbol to explain to his disciples what he wanted them to be like. Why do you think he used salt?

We Tell the Story...

Invite someone to proclaim the Scripture reading:

"You are like salt for everyone on earth. But if salt no longer tastes like salt, how can it make food salty? All it is good for is to be thrown out and walked on." (Matthew 5:13)

We Bless Our Food...

Good and gracious God, we bless you and thank you for this meal prepared with love for us today. Bless our table, and bless our time together. Make us aware of how we can add flavor to your beautiful world, by being like salt for the earth. Amen.

As you share the meal, invite those gathered to discuss:

- The Gospel reading from Matthew is one of the readings that a candidate for the priesthood can choose for the celebration of his Sacrament of Holy Orders. What would be the significance of this Gospel passage for a priest who is celebrating ordination? Why would he choose this Scripture reading?
- If the salt of the earth reading was the Gospel passage for this Sunday's liturgy, and you were the priest preparing your homily, what would you say? What would you tell the congregation about being salt for the earth?

We Go Forth...

Lord God, thank you for the meal we have shared. Thank you for the flavors that enliven our food. Bless us as we leave this table. May we remember as we go forth that we are meant to enliven the world with the message of your Son, Jesus. We are called to be salt for the world.
Amen.

Pass the bowl of salt around the table. Pause to pray together for each person as they touch and taste the salt:

(Name), Go forth, and be salt for the world. Amen.