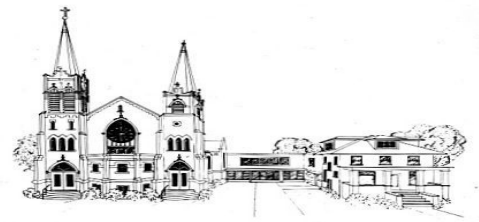


Faith At Home



Thursday, April 9, Maundy Thursday

Confession and Forgiveness

A family practice

Each family member can read the confession. Take turns reading the words of forgiveness to each other:

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my family, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen

The Apostles' Creed

Unified in our baptism, we confess our faith:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Praying

A family practice

Have every member of the family write a prayer to God, naming one of the following themes:

Creation

Those who are sick

Those dealing with the fears of the pandemic

Those dealing with the loss of loved ones

Those serving in the military

Those serving in positions of leadership

Are there other concerns you need to name?

After you write these prayers share them aloud with one another.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

This Week In God's Word — Maundy Thursday

Hearing God's Word

Take time as a family to open the Bible and read these stories together. Take turns reading. Do not be afraid of words, like names, that you are unfamiliar with. Say it like you mean it.

The First Reading Exodus 12:1-14

Moses instructs the community how to remember the Passover, with a special meal, marking the moment God saved Israel from Egypt.

The Psalm Psalm 116

The Second Reading Acts 2:42-47

The growing community of faith gathers around worship and a meal to remember Jesus

The Gospel Matthew 26:17-30

Jesus takes the Passover meal and connects the bread and wine to his body and blood, his own sacrifice on the cross as the Lamb of God..

A time of blessing

On Maundy Thursday and on Good Friday, worship does not include a blessing. This is because worship does not technically end. It is merely put on hold. We begin worship on Maundy Thursday, and it ends with the Easter celebration.

Some churches have an Easter Vigil worship on Saturday. That would end with a blessing.

Without a Vigil, we simply gather for Easter Morning worship and conclude the long worship service that began on Maundy Thursday.

Stripping the Altar

In the worship video, Pastor Jamie will read Psalm 22 and take items from the chancel and altar, leaving the altar bare until Easter. This is a time-honored tradition marking our somber approach to Good Friday, and giving us a chance to wait for the renewal of Easter when the new paraments are placed on the altar.

As a family, you can have your own At-Home version of this same tradition.

Start by getting a basket or small box.

Gather items from your house that represent faith:

One or more crosses, a Bible, a candle, a fish-symbol, anything that has to do with faith. Maybe you have a magnet or a small picture that can be a part of this as well.

Light the candle

Open the Bible to Psalm 22.

Take turns reading. After each break listed below, add another item to your basket. When you are done reading the Psalm, extinguish the candle. Place the candle (when cooled) and Bible into the basket. Place the basket on a shelf in a closet. On Easter morning, take the basket out of the closet and return the faith items to their normal places in the house.

The Readings

Psalm 22:1-5

Psalm 22:6-10

Psalm 22:11-18

Psalm 22:19-24

Psalm 22:25-31

The Lord's Prayer