

Agape Meal

A feast of Jesus' meals with friends

Ahead of the service, everyone will need to have a drink (it will work well if you have the nicest drink you have in the house), a main savoury part of the meal and something sweet for pudding.

WELCOME

We will focus on each part in turn in the service, but if you want to eat at any point no one will mind.

The feast is made up from five stories of meals that Jesus ate. We will hear those stories, think about what they mean to us, pray together and eat and drink together!

OPENING WORDS

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Psalm 34:8

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

We have not always worshipped God,
our creator.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We have not always followed Christ,
our Saviour.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We have not always trusted in the Spirit,
our guide.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love
bring *us* back to himself,
forgive *us our* sins,
and assure *us* of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Reading 1: ZACCHEUS

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Luke 19: 1- 10

Introductions: Jesus was the guest at Zacchaeus' house. Who is here with us tonight? Who are we welcoming amongst us?

PRAYER

Loving God,
as we gather for this meal we welcome you.
Enter our homes and our hearts afresh.
Take all that we have,
and help us like Zacchaeus
to make amends for our wrongs.
Find us here so that we are never lost again.

Amen

Reading 2: THE WEDDING AT CANA

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 2: 1-11

Why is this the drink you chose? As we pour our drinks and start sipping let's pray.

PRAYER

Good Father, we praise you for your goodness,
we thank you for our blessings.
Even on the worst of days
 help us to know the gift of your love
which turns all things from mundane to glorious.

Amen

Start to eat your meal and hear the story of the most famous picnic there ever was.

Reading 3: FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled

Matthew 14: 13-20a

Share stories of where we've experienced God's unexpected blessing & provision.

PRAYER

God our provider,
we know that when we give you our all,
 however little that may seem,
 you make it enough for everyone.
We ask your blessing on those
 who support us in every way.
Guide them, protect them, and give them
 all that they need to be full. **Amen**

Reading 4: A WOMAN ANOINTS JESUS

³ While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴ But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵ For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. ⁶ But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹ Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Mark 14: 3-9

Reflection or question: Why do you think it mattered to Jesus that we remember this woman?

PRAYER

Generous God,
You hear us clearly when we can barely find the
words to speak.

We give you our love and joy and praises.

We thank you for all that is good in our lives.

As we eat these sweet things
help us to bring what is holy and lovely
to the forefront of our lives.

Amen

Reading 5: THE LORD'S 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."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26: 26-30

Reflection or question: Why do you think Jesus chose a meal as the way to remember him?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.**

Reflection or question: What does it mean to pray for us to God's Kingdom to come this Easter time?

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE GRACE

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all, evermore.
Amen**

With thanks to [St Claire's at the Community](#) for the use of this liturgy, which we have adapted.