

Paraphrases of the Holy Thursday Readings

A Reading from the book of Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

God said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:
Tell the people of Israel they are to take a lamb for each family.
The lamb is to be killed at twilight.
Some of the blood of the lamb is to be put on the doorposts of the house.
They are to eat the lamb that same night.
They are to eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

When you eat it you must be dressed ready to move on,
with sandals on your feet and a stick in your hand.
You are to eat it quickly.
It is the Passover of the Lord.
When I see the blood on your doorposts
I will pass over you and protect you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Keep remembering this day by celebrating the Passover meal.
You must do this every year.

When your children ask what this all means explain to them that this is God's Passover feast when God passed over you and the first-born of the Egyptians died.



A Reading from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

On the night when Jesus was betrayed
he took a loaf of bread,
and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and said,
"This is my body which is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup and said,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When you eat this bread and drink this cup
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.



A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John 13:3-15

During the supper Jesus got up from the table,
took off his outer robe and tied a towel around himself.
He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet
and wiped them with the towel.

He came to Simon Peter who said to him,
"Lord are you going to wash my feet?"
Jesus answered him,
"You do not understand what I am doing now,
but later you will."
Peter said to him, "I will never let you wash my feet."

Jesus said,
"If I don't wash your feet it means you want nothing to do with me."
Peter answered,
"If that's what it means then wash my hands and my head too!"

After he had washed their feet, put on his robe and returned to the table
Jesus said to them,
"Do you know what I have done to you?
You call me Lord and Teacher and that is right, for that is what I am.
So if I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet,
you should wash one another's feet.
I have done this as an example so that you will do as I have done".

