



# Holy Thursday

*We invite you to take a moment of silence to let your whole being - mind body and spirit become aware of God's presence within you and among all those who are gathered.*

**On the eve of the Passion of Jesus, we offer you these two reflections or moments in which to pray:**

## **First reflection: Called to sit with Him at His Table.**

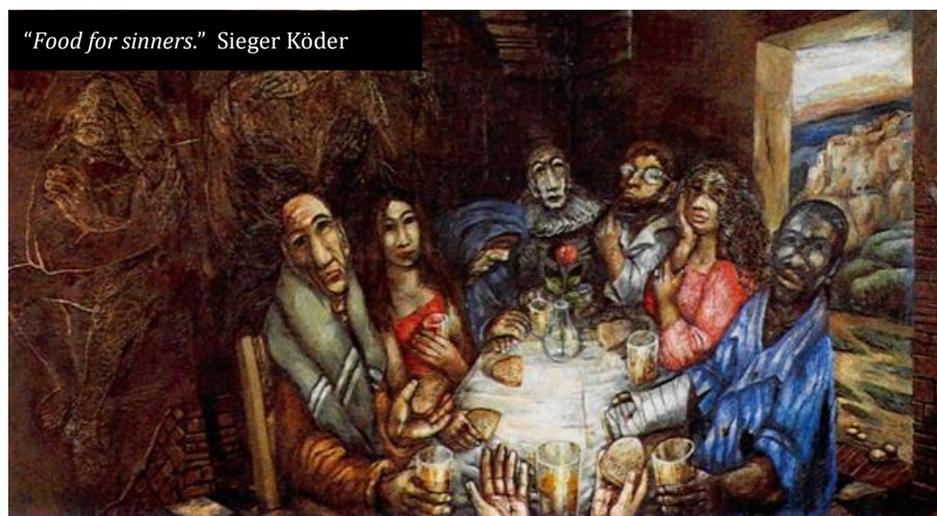
Notice the place and the time Jesus chooses to give his greatest expression of love.

*"Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end." (Jn 13:1)*

This loving to the end is celebrated around a table and with food. Take a few minutes to consider the many gestures during a meal shared with the people you love: your family, your friends, etc., and notice what happens there: the conversations, the smiles, the joy, the attention you pay them, the desire to nourish them and share with them, the need to express and receive affection. Jesus wants to come "into your house" and share his Bread and Wine.

*"Jesus said: '... My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' [...] 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.'"*  
(Mt 26: 18, 26-28)

The supper to which Jesus invites you is different from others. The food and drink he offers us is himself. His body and blood are the food and drink of salvation, of forgiveness and of liberation, and it is offered to all without distinction. It is a table where everybody has a place.



*"Food for sinners." Sieger Köder*

*Who is invited to your table?*

*To whom are you giving and sharing the Bread of his Word and of his Life?*

*When people sit down to eat at your table, and with what are they nourished?*

Song: [Bread for the World](#) · Bernadette Farrell

## Second reflection: We are invited to let our feet and wounds be washed and anointed.



"Washing of the feet", Sieger Köder

His table and His Bread that gathers us together is a symbol of unity. It is with Him and in Him that we become one with the Father and with one another. This love that is both unifying and interpersonal is continually opening us up to something new and revolutionary. It introduces us to a new dimension of Love that goes beyond our limits in order to be led to the very end.

*"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him." (Jn 13:3 - 5)*

This Bread that is broken and shared now is Jesus reclining at your feet; He is present in our frailty and suffering, washing, and anointing our wounds, and the pains and cries of those who are suffering. This gesture of kneeling also introduces us to a new way of relating to each other, for, in one way or another, we express our power in the way we relate to others.

From this kneeling position: **what wounds are crying out for healing? How does Jesus invite you to draw closer and relate to yourself, to others and to our common home in your daily life?**

*"As we hear and respond to the cry of the poor and of wounded earth, we see the effect of unbridled power, especially when it is driven by greed, domination, and callous indifference." But "we have been witness to the healing capacity and redemptive value of power, especially when it is put at the service of reconciliation and love."  
(Being Artisans of Hope ...p.8)*

On this day when we celebrate "the Love we have for our Sisters and Brothers", we can learn from Jesus, who "has been the gracious host who welcomes them and attends to their needs. Humble service in love, hospitality offered to all and the willingness to 'lay down one's life': all these actions and attitudes are paths to blessing and happiness. [...] May we all rejoice in this new "beatitude": Blessed are the feet-washers, for they will know the true meaning of the Christian life".

*(Barbara Bowe, RSCJ, "The Holy Thursday and Gratitude")*

Closing song: [Mi Cuerpo Es Comida](#) · Cristóbal Fones, SJ

### Easter of Today - Echoes from People in Exodus

#### What is your hope?

*"To get to the other side, cross the river, and achieve my dream. So that I can get ahead and give my family a better life. I want to work, to have my house. The most valuable thing for me is my family." -Francisco Javier. Matagalpa, Nicaragua*

#### Stay or go?

*It's a question thousands of young people of Nepal are facing. Devendra Thapa is from Nepal. At the age of 12 he ran away from his home and came to Malvan in search of work. He now has his own small business. Devendra's dream is to give the best education to his 2 sons, since he didn't really study much.*

*[Click here to read more Echoes from People in Exodus.](#)*

Novitiate Community of Chicago



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April 15, 2022

# Good Friday

## SURRENDER

*This prayer is an invitation to “remain in silence and poverty of heart” (RSCJ Constitutions #20) before the Heart of Jesus — broken, crucified, pierced.*



Image: Jose de Luna (Philippines)

We stay and walk with Jesus as he carries the Cross.  
We may sometimes want to look the other way, or even walk away,  
but we remain with Him.

### *We Carry the Saving Cross*

Himig Heswita

<https://youtu.be/hkG11VdcLv4>

We carry the saving Cross through the roads of the world,  
Through the alleys of poverty and misery, [violence and war].

### Prayer in Silence before the Cross

“In prayer we come to Him with everything that touches our life,  
with the sufferings and hopes of humanity.” (RSCJ Constitutions #20)

Stay as long as you can in this prayer of silence,  
carrying with you the situations (personal and global) of suffering and helplessness,  
poverty and misery, violence and war.

*“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”*

We stay with Jesus as he commends his life into the hands of the Father.

Again, remain in silence, and be in touch with what may surface at this time.  
Stand at the foot of the Cross. Enter into the emptiness and desolation of "Good Friday."  
Stay even if it is painful, seemingly hopeless, quite incomprehensible.  
Listen as Jesus commends his spirit into the Father's hands.

***What does this mean for you today?***



*"They will look to the one  
whom they have pierced."*

John 19:37

Jesus said, "It is fulfilled"; and bowing his head he gave up his spirit....  
When the soldiers came to Jesus, they saw he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance, and immediately there came out blood and water. (John 19: 30, 33-34)

In silence, we sit at the foot of the Cross and ask the grace to receive  
of this profound LOVE — overflowing.... fully given..... total surrender....

We pray for the grace of:

PEACE, especially when and where it seems most absent.....

TRUST, even if we struggle to believe and to hope.....

SURRENDER, however this may mean for us now .....

We bow before the Cross and end our prayer in silence.

**Easter of Today - *Echoes from People in Exodus***

Calais - This region of France is militarized and the policy of fighting against the fixation points is daily. As evictions and dismantling by the police take place, these migrants find themselves scattered on the outskirts of the city. But despite the shameful living conditions, the exiled people keep smiling. The human warmth, which is lived in this place where misery reigns, is of great richness and truth. [Click here to read more \*Echoes from People in Exodus\*.](#)

Joy Luz rscj (PHI)

*JPIC International*



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# Holy Saturday

**In stillness, earth awaits the resurrection...**

Sit quietly in the presence of God. Gaze at the candle, at Madeleine Sophie's words and read the gospel for Holy Saturday. What resonates in you?

*'When we seek God  
the one we seek is already ours.'*

*Madeleine Sophie Barat*



*Dreamstime.com*

## Gospel of Mark 16 1-7



“When the sabbath was over,  
Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome  
bought spices so that they might go and anoint him.

Very early when the sun had risen,  
on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.

They were saying to one another,  
“Who will roll back the stone for us  
from the entrance to the tomb?”

When they looked up,  
they saw that the stone had been rolled back;  
it was very large.

On entering the tomb, they saw a young man  
sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe,  
and they were utterly amazed.

He said to them, “Do not be amazed!  
You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.

He has been raised; he is not here.

Behold the place where they laid him.

But go and tell his disciples and Peter,

‘He is going before you to Galilee;  
there you will see him, as he told you.’”

## In our world

“With more than 3.1 million refugees forced to flee Ukraine over the past three weeks, and millions internally displaced within the country, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is warning that humanitarian needs are increasing exponentially. In addition to those who have had to flee, around 13 million people have been affected in the areas hardest hit by the war within Ukraine and are in need of humanitarian and protection assistance.

Many people remain trapped in areas of escalating conflict and, with essential services disrupted, are unable to meet their basic needs including food, water, and medicines.”

*From UNCHR spokesman, Matthew Saltmarsh, 18 March 2022*

*SchengenVisainfo.com*



## In our Church

“Jesus was always on the road, but never alone. He moved around with a crowd of disciples. There was no set plan. Jesus let himself be guided by the Spirit and his small community trusted him enough to follow him.

In the Synodal process, the whole Church wants to set out on a journey. It is long and difficult, and we do not know where the Spirit will lead us. Like any journey it begins with the first step, with the question, what will the Spirit and our world ask of us now?”

*From AEFJN (Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network) Lenten Reflection 2022*

We pray for all those who are displaced by war.

We pray for our own helplessness in the face of vast sorrow.

We pray for our Church on its pilgrim journey.

May we have the courage of Mary Magdalene when she heard the words:

**“He is going before you to Galilee;  
there you will see him, as he told you.”**

Closing Song: [Dark Night of the Soul](#)

### Easter of Today - *Echoes from People in Exodus*

“Half a million Mariupol residents are cut off from life. There are no streets left with undestroyed houses. The bodies of the dead are buried in the courtyards of residential sectors. There is no light, heat, water, food, communications in the city. Children are dying of dehydration.” – *Natasha, Mariupol (Ukraine)*

[Click here to read more Echoes from People in Exodus.](#)

Anne Corry rscj (ANZ)  
General Council



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