



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.

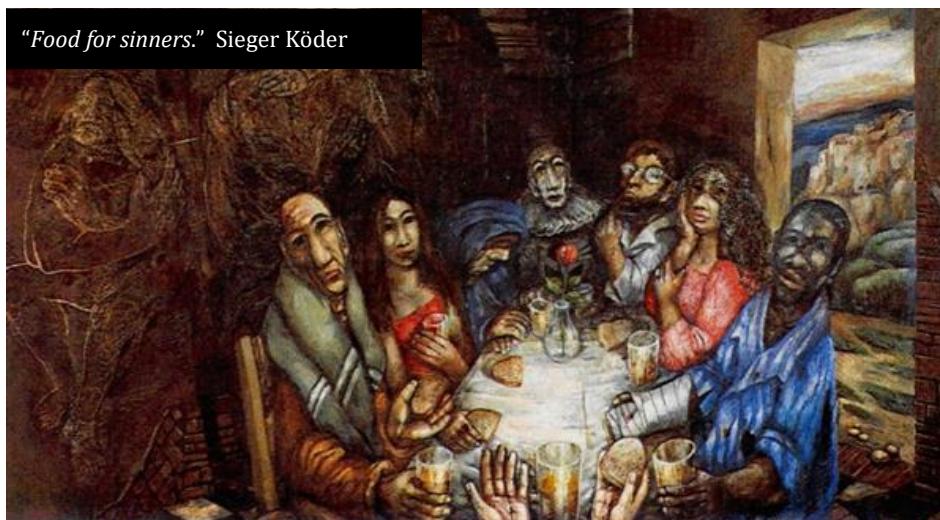
Notice the place and the time Jesus chooses to give his greatest expression of love.

"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.



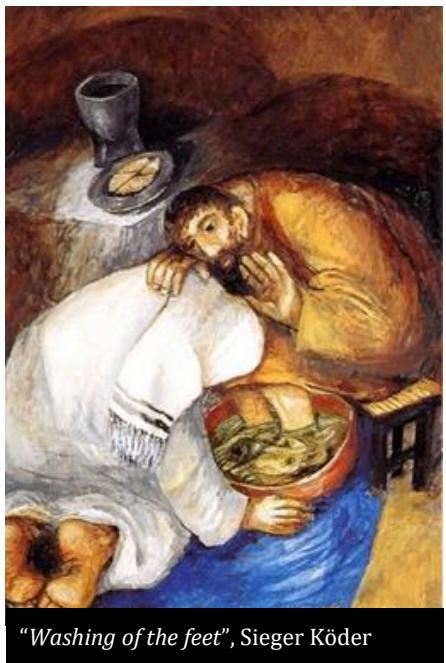
Who is invited to your table?

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 "beatitudo": 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

