



MAUNDY THURSDAY 2019

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

HYMN

GUIDE Let us fix our attention on Jesus the “Bread of life” the gift of God, sign and source of unity.

silent prayer

GUIDE Our life is a journey that leads us to God and we are able to make it because we are strengthened by Christ present with

us in this Bread; the Bread that gives full meaning to our life and our death, to our joy and to our hope.

READ. 1 **From the Gospel of John** - (*Jn 6: 48-59*)

“I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum”.

silent prayer

GUIDE Let us now listen to brief readings that highlight the various meanings of the term ‘Bread’ in the Bible alternating them with silence to help us to adore contemplatively Jesus, “the Bread of life”

VOICE 1 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread (*Gn 3.19*).

Pause

VOICE 1 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; (*Lk 24:30*).

Pause

VOICE 1 Give us this day our daily bread. (*Mt 6:11*).

Pause

VOICE 1 I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. (*Ex 16:4*).

Pause

VOICE 1 One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (*Mt 4:4*).

Pause

VOICE 1 The Lord keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. (*Psalms 145:6-7*).

Pause

VOICE 1 I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. (*Jn 6:35*).

Pause

VOICE 1 Sir, give us this bread always. (*Jn 6:34*).

Pause

VOICE 1 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. (*1Cor 10:17*).

Pause

VOICE 1 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (*1Cor 11:26*).

Pause

VOICE 1 All her people groan as they search for bread (*Lam 1:11*).

Pause

VOICE 1 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? (*Is 55:2*).

Pause

VOICE 1 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink... (*Mt 25: 35*).

Pause

VOICE 1 Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. (*Rev 3:20*).

Pause

GUIDE Christ has instituted the Eucharist so that he may be available to us as food-relief-comfort. For this, let us pray:

ALL **I am a beggar, Lord!**

I eat the Bread,
as an oil lamp that illumines the way at night.

I eat the Bread,
as a coin that makes me enter the Kingdom.

I eat the Bread,
as the hidden treasure that enriches me.

I eat the Bread,

as the salt that adds taste to life.

I eat the Bread,
as the daily food that keeps me in life.

I eat the Bread,
as an invitation to share life.

I eat the Bread,
as a sign of the community, that keeps the memory of the
Passover

Silence

HYMN

GUIDE This evening the evangelist John brings to our attention the gesture of Jesus who washes the feet of his disciples and leaves, as his testament, the example of these gestures of reciprocal service through which his free, faithful and fruitful love is made present.

READ. 2 **From the Gospel according to John - (13:1-15)**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now

what I am doing, but later you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”

silent prayer

VOICE 2 My Lord took off his clothes,
tied a towel around him
poured water into a basin
and washes the feet of his disciples;
not only to Peter,
but also to each of us he says:
“Unless I wash you,
you have no share with me”.

ALL Come, Lord Jesus,
Take away the cloth that you wore for me;
strip yourself off of the clothes
in order to cloth us again with mercy.
Tie a towel; pour water into the basin,
wash us not only the feet, but also the head,

not only the feet of our body,
but also those of the soul.

VOICE 2 Not only do you wash our feet,
but you invite us to unite ourselves to you around the table,
and you exhort us with the example:
“You call me Teacher and Lord
and you are right, for that is what I am.
So if I, your Lord and Teacher,
have washed your feet,
you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”

ALL I too desire to wash the feet of my brothers and my sisters,
I desire to observe the commandment of the Lord.
He commanded me not to be ashamed
to do what he himself has done even before me.
(Sant’Ambrogio)

LEADER Lord Jesus,
as in the Last Supper with your disciples,
you are in our midst as the one who serves.
And we, though slow to understand,
wish to know to imitate you and
to make ourselves servants of all,
to make visible through our gestures
the immense divine charity
and to be introduced one day
to the supper of the eternal Passover
where you yourself,
according to your promise
will come to serve us,
satisfying us with joy
with radiant light of your face.

ALL **Amen.**

GUIDE Around the Eucharist, we rediscover the community as a place of communion. The true communion is a gift, and this is the best moment to intensify it among us and to live in reciprocal acceptance.

READ. 3 **From the writings of Jean Vanier**

God seems to be pleased to call together in the same community persons, humanly very different, coming from cultures, classes and countries much different.

The best of communities come rightly from this great diversity of persons and temperaments. This fact obliges each one to overcome his/her own sympathies and antipathies to love the other with his/her diversities.

These persons would never have chosen to live with the others. Humanly this seems to be an impossible challenge, but for the very fact it is impossible, we have the inner certainty that God has chosen them to live in that community. Only then, it becomes possible. They do not depend on their own human capacities or on their likes, but on the Father who has called them to live together. He will give them little by little that new heart and that new spirit so that they all may become witnesses of love.

We should not search for ideal communities. We have to love those that God has placed close to us. They are the sign of the presence of God for us. We would have wished different persons, but these are the ones God has given us, whom he has chosen for us. It is with them we have to create unity.

(from "La comunità luogo del perdono e della festa, pag. 29-30)

silence

HYMN

Prayer intentions

VOICE 3 Give us, Lord Jesus,
an universal love,

ALL that does not exclude none and embraces all.

VOICE 3 Give us love that is patient,

ALL that bears serenely the defects and the misunderstandings of
the sisters.

VOICE 3 Give us a love that is delicate,

ALL that intervenes with kindness, politeness and joy.

VOICE 3 Give us a love that is humble,

ALL that does not make known the help given.

VOICE 3 Give us a boundless love,

ALL that finds new sources to offer.

VOICE 3 Give us a Christian love,

ALL that recognizes you in each brother and sister.
Lord, help us to love a little more.

TIME OF SILENT ADORATION

Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

HYMN