

# *Come to the Table: Catholic Worship for All*

*March 20, 2020*

*Sponsored by Dignity/New York*

Welcome to Come to the Table: Catholic Worship for All. We are drawn now into community where we believe that Jesus is present in the "breaking of the bread" — where no one is outcast and no one is without value and no one is excluded from the feast. God is found in the ordinary and every day.



Today, let us seek God in a meal shared together.

During this season of renewal and reflection, while we look for shoots of new growth in our lives, we welcome the chance to begin our worship with quiet. As we enter, we leave behind the past and live in this place and this time.

## ***Call to Gather***

In the name of God, our Love, and of Christ, our Liberator, and of the Holy Spirit, our Wisdom. Amen

## ***Opening Song***

***Come To The Feast – Marty Haugen***

O, ev'ryone who thirsts: Come to the waters! Here is an end to hunger: Come to the feast!  
And ev'ryone who labors: Come to the waters! All you who have no money: Come to the feast!

*For this is life: the waters of the Jordan: For this is life: the waters of your birth:*

*For this is life: the waters that renew you: O come to the feast! O come to the feast!*

O, ev'ryone who seeks: Come to the waters! Hear me and share the riches: Come to the feast!  
And ev'ryone who mourns: Come to the waters! Now is an end to sadness: Come to the feast!

*For this is life: the streams of joy and gladness: For this is life: the rains that bring you life:*

*For this is life: the waters that restore you: O come to the feast! O come to the feast!*

And all who are oppressed: Come to the waters! This is the feast of justice: Come to the feast!  
And you, the lost and broken: Come to the waters! This is the feast of healing: Come to the feast!

*For this is life: to die and rise in Jesus: For this is life: to share the life of Christ:*

*For this is life: the bread and wine of justice: O come to the feast! O come to the feast!*

## ***Opening Prayer***

***A Coronavirus Prayer from America Magazine***

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Jesus Christ, heal us.

O Lover of All, during Lent you call us to renew our bodies, minds and spirits in the wellspring of your love.

You call us to do justice and live compassion. May we discover the sacred in everything we see and do, and in our sisters and brothers who are in need of our loving service.

We ask this through Jesus, who calls us to be the compassion of God in our world. Amen.

### **Kyrie**

**Marty Haugen**

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.*

Oh Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's Kin\_dom.

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people.

### **First Reading**

**Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

Now since we have been made right in God's sight by our faith, we are at peace with God through our Savior Jesus Christ. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us to the grace in which we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to the day on which we will become all that God has intended. And such a hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. At the appointed time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us godless people.

It is not easy to die even for a good person — though of course for someone really worthy, there might be someone prepared to die — but the proof of God's love is that Christ died for us even while we were still sinners.

### **Response**

**Covenant Hymn Gary Daigle**

Wherever you go, I will follow, wherever you live is my home. Though days be of blessing or sorrow, though house be of canvas or stone. Though Eden be lost to the past, though mountains before us be vast. Wherever you go, I am with you. I never will leave you alone.

Whatever you dream, I am with you, When stars call your name in the night. Though shadows and mist cloud the future, Together we bear there a light. Like Abram and Sarah we stand, with only a promise in hand. But lead where you dream: I will follow. To dream with you is my delight.

And though you should fall, you will find me, when no other friend can you claim, tho' foes beat you down or betray you, And others desert you in shame. When home and dreams aren't enough, and you run away from my love, I'll raise you from where you have fallen. Faithful to you is my name.

Wherever you die, I will be there to sing you to sleep with a psalm, to soothe you with tales of our journey, your fears and your doubts I will calm. We'll live when journeys are done forever in mem'ry as one. And we will be buried together, and waken to greet a new dawn.

Wherever you go, I will follow. Behold! The horizon shines clear. The possible gleams like a city; together we've nothing to fear. So speak with words bold and true the message my heart speaks to you. You won't be alone, I have promised. Wherever you go, I am here.

***Gospel Reading***

***Luke 9:28-36***

Jesus stopped at Sychar, a town in Samaria, near the tract of land Jacob had given to his son Joseph, and Jacob's Well was there. Weary from the journey, Jesus came and sat by the well. It was around noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." The disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions.

The Samaritan woman replied, "You are a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?" — since Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans.

Jesus answered, "If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him for a drink instead, and he would have given you living water."

"If you please," she challenged Jesus, "you do not have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this 'living water'? Surely you do not pretend to be greater than our ancestors Leah and Rachel and Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with their descendants and flocks?"

Jesus replied, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give them will never be thirsty; no, the water I give will become fountains within them, springing up to provide eternal life."

The woman said to Jesus, "Give me this water, so that I will not grow thirsty and have to keep coming all the way here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and then come back here." "I do not have a husband," replied the woman. "You are right — you do not have a husband!" Jesus exclaimed. "The fact is, you have had five, and the man you are living with now is not your husband. So what you have said is quite true."

"I can see you are a prophet," answered the woman. "Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you people claim that Jerusalem is the place where God ought to be worshiped." Jesus told her, "Believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship Abba God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

Your people worship what they do not understand; we worship what we do understand — after all, salvation is from the Jewish people. "Yet the hour is coming — and is already here — when real worshipers will worship Abba God in Spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers whom Abba God seeks. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in Spirit and truth."

The woman said to Jesus, "I know that the Messiah — the Anointed One — is coming, and will tell us everything." Jesus replied, "I who speak to you am the Messiah."

The disciples, returning at this point, were shocked to find Jesus having a private conversation with a woman. But no one dared to ask, "What do you want of him?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

The woman then left her water jar and went off into the town. She said to the people, “Come and see someone who told me everything I have ever done! Could this be the Messiah?” At that, everyone set out from town to meet Jesus.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging Jesus, “Rabbi, eat something.” But Jesus told them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” At this, the disciples said to one another, “Do you think someone has brought him something to eat?” Jesus explained to them, “Doing the will of the One who sent me and bringing this work to completion is my food. Do you not have a saying, “Four months more and it will be harvest?” I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields — they are ripe and ready for harvest! Reapers are already collecting their wages; they are gathering fruit for eternal life, and sower and reaper will rejoice together.

“So the saying is true: One person sows; another reaps. I have sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the work, and you have come upon the fruits of their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus on the strength of the woman’s testimony that, “He told me everything I ever did.” The result was that when these Samaritans came to Jesus, they begged him to stay with them awhile. So Jesus stayed there two days, and through his own spoken word many more came to faith. They told the woman, “No longer does our faith depend on your story. We have heard for ourselves, and we know that this really is the savior of the world.”

### **Shared Reflection**

*Tired, hungry, weary, Jesus listens to the Samaritan woman and engages her in conversation. He talks to her but not like the other men, rather with respect, honor and understanding. He recognizes her intelligence, asks her questions and stays in the conversation. But most importantly, Jesus listens to her from the outside in, hears her in a way no one else has bothered to. It’s the way Jesus listens with intention and attention – with his eyes and his heart.*

*Who needs my attention and listening heart? Do I show respect, honor, and understanding to all I encounter each day? In challenging situations do I ask what would Jesus do (WWJD)?*

Joan Lickteig, PBVM

### **Prayer of Petition**

#### **Eucharistic Prayer**

*Adapted from: Ron Wolf, S.J., Bread Blessed and Broken, J. Mossi*

Binder of Wounds and ever-gentle God, we praise and bless you. Through your goodness, you have made this world and called us to be your own. We thank you for the sun, the moon, this earth, and its birds, fish, trees, and everything that is beautiful around us.

We thank you especially for our freedom, for the dreams of young people and for old people’s visions, for our minds, our hearts, and our bodies. We praise you, for you call us to build the earth into a community of love. This will be our prayer to you. You have placed confidence in us, for you have made us and you know that we are good.

Compassionate One, we do not always understand what you have planned for us. It is difficult to grasp the mysterious depths of your love. So you sent your only begotten one, Jesus, to show us who we are and what you want us to be. Jesus challenged us to call you “Abba” and taught us not to be afraid.

Jesus showed us how to forgive and taught us that love is stronger than all sin.

And so, Transforming Presence, to help us remember the call you have given us, we gather here at Jesus’ command, to celebrate this simple meal. On the evening before his suffering and death, Jesus took bread into his hands, blessed it and broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples with the words:



**Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you.**

At the end of the meal, knowing that he was to reconcile all things in himself by the blood of his cross, he took the cup, filled with wine. Again he gave you thanks, handed the cup to his disciples and said:

**Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**

Unconditional Love, open our hearts to the Spirit dwelling within us. May this same Spirit help us to listen without fear to your call to us. May the Spirit lead us to a life of love and service, full of confidence in you. We pray that wherever we are, justice will shine forth, and that all women and men can approach each other as equals, as brothers and sisters living in the light of your presence.

***Behold what you are, become what you receive. The Body of Christ.***

***Christ Be Our Light***

***Bernadette Farrell***

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kin\_dom come.

***Sending Forth***

***Elizabeth Johnson - Abounding In Kindness***

The reign of God will disturb the order of the world run by the arrogant, the hard of heart, the indifferent overlord.

Through God's action the social hierarchy of wealth and poverty, power and subjugation will be turned upside down.

The gospels testify that in his own lifetime Jesus preached this great reversal. Recall the beatitudes: blessed are you poor, you who hunger now...you who weep...(you shall inherit the earth). Through his own death and resurrection this same reversal is embedded in Jesus himself, the crucified one who becomes the motherlode of God's life-giving mercy for the world. Amen.

***Jerusalem My Destiny***

***by Rory Cooney***

I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Jerusalem, my Destiny.  
Though I cannot see the end for me I cannot turn away.

We have set our hearts for the way; this journey is our destiny.  
Let no one walk alone. The journey makes us one.

See, I leave the past behind; a new land calls to me.  
Here among you now I find a glimpse of what might be.

To the tombs I went to mourn the hope I thought was gone,  
Here among you I awoke to unexpected dawn.

### ***Greeting of Peace***

May God bless us as we journey together with Christ and one another into the deeper life of God! Let us share peace with one another.

*Many people join us from their HouseChurch.*

*Westchester County, Mount Vernon, Hastings, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, Manhattan, New Windsor, Buffalo, East Setauket; NY, Nashville, TN, Chicago, Chillicothe, IL, Silver Spring, MD, E Brookfield, Mansfield, Medford, Provincetown, Revere, MA, Austin, Plano, TX, San Francisco, CA, New Haven, CT, Bennington, VT, Washington, DC, Allentown, Philadelphia, PA, Hawaii, Burlington, KS, Fort Wayne, IN, Detroit, MI, Columbus, OH, Ireland, London, England, Peace Corps Volunteers joining us from Armenia, GNRC members in Manila, Philippines and all those who are praying with us right now! We hold them in our hearts.*

*For more information: [ComeToTheTable@DignityNY.org](mailto:ComeToTheTable@DignityNY.org)*

All music used with permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-700554