

Agapé Feast

(This form originates from the Maundy Thursday Agape form in the Book of Occasional Services (2018), adapted by the Rev. Dr. James Farwell and Dr. Lisa Kimball of Virginia Theological Seminary, further edited by the Rev. Marc Eames, Church of the Advent, Medfield, MA)

A simple meal is preferred. Appropriate foods include soup, cheese, olives, dried fruit, bread, and wine.

+ *The Blessings* +

After a time of silence, the presider offers the following blessings.

Over Wine

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. We thank you for your continued presence in our lives. You said “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. I will be their god; they shall be my people.” Glory to you for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and you have fed us on our way with the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. Let us be fed again soon with that bread of life. And as grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. You said, “And no longer shall each one teach one’s neighbor and each one’s sibling, saying, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” To you be glory and power for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over the Other Foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the Eucharistic fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

+ *The Meal* +

The meal is now eaten. If several are gathered in one place, they first serve one another, then dine.

+ *Discussion* +

What has been challenging to your spiritual life during this time?

What has been life-giving?

+ *The Word and the Prayers* +

*At the end of the meal, the twenty-first chapter of the gospel of John,
or any other scripture suitable to the season or occasion, is read.*

A moment of silence is held.

The following (or some other) psalm is then said.

Psalm 63:1-8

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place;
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you,
your right hand holds me fast.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Let us pray

O God of the crucified and risen One, from whom no trial or trouble can separate us:
you feed us with your Word and soothe us with your Spirit, closer to us than breath itself.
Make us glad this night for the life of your servant Jesus;
Make us servants of all for the sake of Jesus;
who for our sake gave his life for the salvation of all.

In the Name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.