

Blessings Over Food at Easter

By The Rt. Rev. Eric Menees, Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin

Following the Liturgy of the Word the congregation, gathered virtually and in their homes, are invited to enjoy an Agape Feast or Feast of Love. The head of household (or designee) is encouraged to lead the family in the following prayers and praises.

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: Let us praise God together saying:

DIGNUS ES
A Song to the Lamb

**Splendor and honor and kingly power*
are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is,*
and by your will they were created and have their being;
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,*
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation,*
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.
And so, to him who sits upon the throne,⁸
and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,*
for ever and for evermore. Amen**

(Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13, 14)

Leader and people: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Alleluia.

Then follows a reading from the Book of Revelation chapter 21 verses 2-7

Lector: A reading from the Book of Revelation Chapter 21 beginning at the 2nd verse:

² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

The head of household (or designee) is invited to give a personal testimony giving thanks to God for all his blessings including the feast that has been placed before them.

The following blessings from the Book of Occasional Services are then said:

Over Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, you bring forth bread from the earth and make the risen Lord to be for us the Bread of life: Grant that we who daily see the bread which sustains our bodies may also hunger for the food of everlasting life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Over Wine

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of the fruit of the vine: Grant that we who share this wine, which gladdens our hearts, may share for ever the new life of the true Vine, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Over the Other Foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, you have given us the risen Savior to be the Shepherd of your people: Lead us, by him, to springs of living waters, and feed us with the food that endures to eternal life; where with you, O Father, and with the Holy Spirit, he lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

At the close of the meal the leader invites those gathered to recite the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Leader Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14