

Dear Thomas,

## **Keep in Mind Holy Week 2020**

Those of you who have celebrated Eucharist with us at Gonzaga will recognize the altar/table around which we gather to share our praise and thanks to God for the gift of Jesus Christ, who shares himself with us in "bread that is broken" and "wine that is poured out." If you were able to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper, here or in your accustomed places of worship, you would also have the ritual of the "washing of the feet." And so, you see the gifts of bread and wine, a plate from Capernaum with the symbols of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, and a pitcher that would hold the water for the foot washing. When the three of us who live here celebrate Eucharist tonight, we will remember all of you who have at one time or another been present around this table as the Risen Christ has been "really present" in consecrated bread and wine and in our community of faith.

As we thought of so many of you who would be "at home" tonight, we were thinking of how early Christian communities would gather in their homes to give "thanks and praise" and share a meal in memory of Jesus. In that spirit, we offer you a ritual for a Holy Thursday gathering with family around your table with bread and wine. If you are living alone, know you are not alone. Your prayer will be united with all of us who long for communion with Christ and with each other. Paul Melley, presently a doctoral student at Boston College,

helped us to craft this ritual. You have heard Paul's voice and his music during this retreat.

### [Holy Thursday "at home"](#)

Our "points for prayer" for today come from Clare Walsh MSHS. Clare is a well-known spiritual director who once was on the staff at Eastern Point and is a regular "guest." She invites us to pray with the question heard every Passover: "Why is this night different from any other night?" It's a very poignant question given the reality that we are facing these days because of the COVID19 Virus.

### [Points for Prayer Holy Thursday](#)

We also invite you to listen to two pieces of music that may enhance your prayer today. The first is one that is so appropriate for these days: "We Are Not Alone" by David Haas. The second is a choral arrangement by the mid-20th century composer Maurice Duruflé of a text often sung at Holy Thursday Eucharist

### [Cambridge Singers: Ubi Caritas Duruflé](#)

The materials are here to help you focus your time of prayer. In addition to meditations that come from the scriptures, we will also offer you suggestions for music, images, videos, poetry and artwork that will hopefully enrich your prayer as well.

We hope and pray that this journey with Jesus and with each other will instill in us trust and confidence in God's faithfulness.

### **Scriptures for the Liturgies of Holy Week**

(You'll need to click on the Calendar in the upper right-hand corner.)

### **For the Greater Glory of God**

Inspired by the *Spiritual Exercises* of St Ignatius, this performance is an invitation to prayer through music, scripture and dance. The "Third Week" begins at 53:11. The "First Week" story of the Prodigal and "You Search *Me*" begins at 14:00.

If at any time during this week, you'd like to make a contribution to the ministry of Eastern Point Retreat House, you can use the Donate button below. It will take you to our website where you can make your donation.