

Household Prayers at a Meal

The Jewish Sabbath meal defines a Jewish family, as it invites them into a period of rest and worship. A lighting of candles, blessing of bread, and a cup of wine, a blessing of the children by their parents moves to the meal. The Ritual gives children a sense of their identity as people of faith and as members of a family.

Long before the events of Holy Week, and beyond his feeding miracles, the gospels tell us about Jesus dining with all sorts of folk – he ate and drank with his friends, he ate and drank with notorious sinners, he ate and drank with folk who did not much like him. All the tables of our lives hold the presence of Jesus.

This liturgy is rooted the Jewish Sabbath celebration and the Agape Feast found in the Book of Occasional Services.



Agape Celebration for Households

Needed: two Candles, a glass of wine, bread (loaf, pita, roll)

Family Meal

Begin By lighting the candles then say this prayer:

**Set our hearts on fire with love for you, O Christ our God.
So that in its flame we may love you with all our heart,
With all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength
And our neighbours as ourselves,
So that by keeping your commandments we may glorify you,
the giver of all good gifts.
Amen.**

One member of the family lifts the glass of wine and prays:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; to quench our thirst; Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

One member of the family lifts the bread and prays:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. 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 seek the bread which sustains our bodies may also hunger for the food of everlasting life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

One member of the family prays over the meal:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for you give us food to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As the meal ends, Parents bless the children or members of the household bless each other:

The Lord Bless you and keep you.
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. Amen.