



Order for the Blessing of Food for the First Meal of Easter

Introduction

1701 The custom of blessing food for Easter arose from the discipline of fasting throughout Lent and the special Easter fast during the Easter Triduum. Easter was the first day when meat, eggs, and other foods could be eaten. Although not of obligation, the special fast during the Triduum may still be observed as well as the tradition of blessing food for the first meal of Easter.

1702 According to custom, food may be blessed before the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday (or on Easter morning for consumption at the first meal of Easter).

1703 The blessing may take place in another suitable place (than the Church).

1704 The food which is to be blessed may be placed on a table or held by a member of the family.

1705 A shorter Rite may be used that omits the Intercession and the Lord's Prayer.

1706 These Orders may be used by a priest or a deacon, and also by a layperson, who follows the Rites and prayers designated for a lay minister.

Order of Blessing

INTRODUCTORY RITES

The leader says:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All make the Sign of the Cross and say:

Amen.

The leader says:

For our sake Christ became obedient, accepting even death, death on a cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him the name above all other names. Blessed be God forever.

And all reply:

Blessed be God forever.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

One of those present, or the leader, then reads a text of Sacred Scripture.

16:1-8 *The Passover of the Lord.*

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the book of Deuteronomy:

Observe the month of Abib by keeping the Passover of the LORD, your God, since it was in the month of Abib that he brought you by night out of Egypt. You shall offer the Passover sacrifice from your flock or your herd to the LORD, your God, in the place which he chooses as the dwelling place of his name. You shall not eat leavened bread with it. For seven days you shall eat with it only unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, that you may remember as long as you live the day of your departure from the land of Egypt; for in frightened haste you left the land of Egypt. Nothing leavened may be found in all your territory for seven days, and none of the meat which you sacrificed on the evening of the first day shall be kept overnight for the next day.

You may not sacrifice the Passover in any of the communities which the LORD, your God, gives you; only at the place which he chooses as the dwelling place of his name, and in the evening at sunset, on the anniversary of your departure from Egypt, shall you sacrifice the Passover. You shall cook and eat it at the place the LORD, your God, chooses; then in the morning you may return to your tents. For six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh there shall be a solemn meeting in honor of the LORD, your God; on that day you shall not do any sort of work. The Word of the Lord. **R.** Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. My soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God. When shall I go and behold the face of God?

R. My soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Those times I recall, now that I pour out my soul within me, when I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of God, amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving, with the multitude keeping festival.

R. My soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Send forth your light and your fidelity; they shall lead me on and bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling-place.

R. My soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Then will I go in to the altar of God, the God of my gladness and joy; then will I give you thanks upon the harp, O God, my God!

R. My soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

INTERCESSIONS

The leader says:

The Son of God who invites us to the Paschal feast stands ready to help. Let us call upon him in our need.

R. Lord, prepare us for the feast of life.

Assisting minister: That Easter may find us cleansed of sin and ready to live anew our Christian faith, we pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, prepare us for the feast of life.**

Assisting minister: That the bread we share may be a reminder of the bread of life we share in the Eucharist, we pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, prepare us for the feast of life.**

Assisting minister: That we may be ready to give from our table to those who hunger and thirst, we pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, prepare us for the feast of life.**

Assisting minister: That we may one day enjoy the banquet of the Lord in the heavenly kingdom, we pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, prepare us for the feast of life.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The leader says:

Christ taught us to pray for our daily bread and so we dare to say:

All:

Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be 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. Amen.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

The leader says the prayer with hands joined.

Leader:

God of glory, the eyes of all turn to you as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death.

Bless us and this food of our first Easter meal. May we who gather at the Lord's table continue to celebrate the joy of his Resurrection and be admitted finally to his heavenly banquet.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

The leader concludes the Rite by signing himself or herself with the Sign of the Cross and saying:

May Christ nourish us and strengthen us in faith and love, now and forever.

R. Amen.