

A Meal Prayer for the Lord's Day When the Church Cannot Gather

All stand with food on the table. Say the reading and prayer out loud, even if there is only one person at table.

Reading:

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?"

They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. (Luke 24: 28-31 CEB)

[Other suggested readings: Matthew 15:32-38; Luke 19:1-10; John 32-35; Acts 2:41-42; Acts 2:46-47; I Peter 4:12-13; Revelation 21:22-26; Revelation 22:1-2.]

Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord:

Almighty God,

It is right that we always and everywhere give thanks for your goodness.

You give food and drink to all humankind for our delight and enjoyment that we may praise and bless you even in days of trouble.

Bless this food we are about to share.

As Jesus asked us to eat and drink in remembrance of him,

make us mindful that Jesus is present with us

whenever we receive our food with glad and generous hearts.

Remember your Church and bring us to a time when we may again

gather around your table in the fellowship of our congregation;

For yours is the power and glory forever.

Amen.

All sit for the meal.

After the meal, all stand to pray.

Prayer after the Meal:

Gracious and loving God:

Thank you for the gifts we have received.

Grant that we may share your gifts by loving and serving others.

Let your Church, now gathered around many tables on this Lord's Day,
remember our fellowship with all the saints.

Soon and very soon, let us meet again in the assembly of your congregation
to share in Holy Communion with our sister and brothers and wait for that day when
you gather us all to sit at table with you in paradise.

Amen.