The one presiding: We give thanks to you, O God, for this food and this night which unites us as a community of faith and hope; for the memories of our ancestors whose sacred stories give us courage to go into the darkness and be light, to go where there is no peace and be peace. We give thanks for these three days consecrated by the love and sacrifice of Jesus in whom we find our way of being your people in the world. You, O God, are the joy of our life, the Source of its greatness, its power and its beauty. Help us, O God, Ruler of the Universe, to find inspiration in the coming days and peace within ourselves and one another for the sake of the One who dared to go to death and back again that we might know fullness of life.

All: Amen.

Candles may be lit as those who wish sing “What Wondrous Love is This”:

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm

this that caused the Lord of bliss to lay a-side his crown for my Lamb who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme, I will free I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to lay a-side his crown for my soul. sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme I will sing. on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.
The food is served; the presider says,

**Presider (taking a loaf of bread and breaking it):** Eternal God, in the abundance of your love you have caused all things to be. You gave us Jesus, son of Mary, the bread of life broken for the world. Therefore, with all whom you have made, cherished, and called, with all who hungry for your kingdom and will not rest until all your children are fed, with the broken saints and redeemed sinners of all the ages, we praise you.

**All:** Glory to you now and forever.

**Presider:** Calling his friends to his table, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.” In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.’ As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold.

**All:** Glory to you now and forever.

**Presider (pouring wine into one or several cups):** In our eating and drinking we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ; we proclaim him as creation’s host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

**All:** Glory to you now and forever.

The broken bread and the cup(s) are shared.

**During the meal, a short passage from the gospel appointed may be read, or retold, and discussed.**

**The Gospel Lesson**

Just before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that the time had come to leave this world to go to the Father. Having loved his dear companions, he continued to love them right to the end. It was suppertime. The Devil by now had Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, firmly in his grip, all set for the betrayal.

Jesus knew that the Father had put him in complete charge of everything, that he came from God and was on his way back to God. So he got up from the supper table, set aside his robe, and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with his apron. When he got to Simon Peter, Peter said, “Master, you wash my feet?”

Jesus answered, “You don’t understand now what I’m doing, but it will be clear enough to you later.”

Peter persisted, “You’re not going to wash my feet—ever!”

Jesus said, “If I don’t wash you, you can’t be part of what I’m doing.”
“Master!” said Peter. “Not only my feet, then. Wash my hands! Wash my head!”

Jesus said, “If you’ve had a bath in the morning, you only need your feet washed now and you’re clean from head to toe. My concern, you understand, is holiness, not hygiene. So now you’re clean. But not every one of you.” (He knew who was betraying him. That’s why he said, “Not every one of you.”) After he had finished washing their feet, he took his robe, put it back on, and went back to his place at the table.

Then he said, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Master,’ and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other’s feet. I’ve laid down a pattern for you. What I’ve done, you do. I’m only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn’t give orders to the employer. If you understand what I’m telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life.

When he had left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is seen for who he is, and God seen for who he is in him. The moment God is seen in him, God’s glory will be on display. In glorifying him, he himself is glorified—glory all around!

“Children, I am with you for only a short time longer. You are going to look high and low for me. But just as I told the Jews, I’m telling you: ‘Where I go, you are not able to come.’

“Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.”

**Prayer at the end**

**Presider:** We proclaim the feast of God’s kingdom, where all are one and none are broken. We proclaim the wonder of the presence of Christ, the One who has taken us out of our bondage and set us free. We proclaim this holy night when we have returned from exile.

**All:** Glory to you now and forever.

**Presider:** You who have shared the cup and taken the bread, know that you are the beloved of God. Remember that Christ lived for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith and thanksgiving.

**All:** Glory to you now and forever.

**Presider:** Remember your church. Free and protect us from evil and make us perfect in your love; make us holy and gather us in your Kingdom prepared for us. For Yours is the power and the glory forever.

**All:** Amen
The following song may be sung as the table is cleared and dishes washed.

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.