



diocese of California

The Episcopal Church in the San Francisco Bay Area

Agape at Home & on Zoom

Preparing Your Home for the Agape

At the dining table (Everyone can help set a beautiful table)

- Votive or other candles.
- Wine and other beverages.
- A bread basket with your favorite bread.
- Print copies of the prayers and songs.
- A place setting for each person (use dishes that make you happy!)
- Beautiful things: flowers or greenery.
- A laptop, iPad, or smartphone with camera to join the zoom call.

Jobs for household members (Decide ahead of time who wants to lead)

- Table host (someone to lead the service).
- Prayer leaders (one or more).
- Reader (one or more people can share the reading).

At the beginning of the Agape

- Gather at the table.
- Don't light the candles yet!
- Stand for the opening.

Opening Greeting and Prayer

Host

Light and Peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Prayer Leader (*Sing or say*)

The Lord be with you

People

And also with you

Presider

O God, grant us your love,
which never fails,
let it burn in us
and shed its light on those around us,
and by its brightness
may we see your Kingdom,
and the true and never-failing Light,
Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Everyone takes a seat at the table.

Host asks someone to light all the candles.

While we light the candles we can sing this or some other song.

Canon I

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The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust.

Secondary canon I

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The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust.

When the candles are lit we can say this responsively, or sing from the Hymnal #S59-S61, #25, #26.

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

Host

O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,

People

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Host

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,

People

we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Host

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,

People

and to be glorified through all the worlds.

The host asks someone to read the Prophecy of Isaiah.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.
For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

Isaiah 25:6-10

Host

Share a word or phrase that stands out for you in the reading.

Everyone gets a chance to share, both in person and on Zoom.

After everyone shares we bless the meal.

Blessing the Meal

Different household members, or others on Zoom, can lead these blessings.

Over Wine

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and on this night you have refreshed us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and on this night you have given us the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over the Other Foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Meal & Conversation

Everyone shares in the meal.

During the meal, share a conversation about the highs and lows of the day.

At the meal's conclusion, a member of the household offers the dismissal.

Host

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.