

HOLY WEEK PRAYER BREAD

Ingredients

1 tablespoon yeast
1 tablespoon sugar
1 cup warm water
2 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons butter

Recipe adapted from
<https://www.food.com/recipe/romanos-macaroni-grill-rosemary-bread-64446?mode=US&scalet=2>

We invite you to make bread this week, to be shared as part of our Maundy Thursday communion liturgy. As you bake, may the prayers at each step center you in God's love and help you prepare for the coming of Christ.

Directions

1. **Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.**

Pray: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

2. **Place yeast, sugar and water in large bowl or food processor and allow mixture to become bubbly.**

Pray: God, you created the world out of dust, shining light into the world. Just as you formed the earth, you shaped each of us in your image, taking different pieces and creating them into something beautiful. Amen.

3. **Mix in 1 tbsp. butter, salt, and 2 cups of flour.**

Pray: God, you call us to be the salt of the earth. Help us to have courage and to bravely share your Good News. Amen.

4. **Knead for about 10 minutes by hand or in food processor about 5 minutes until smooth and elastic. Add more flour if necessary.**

Pray: As you knead the dough, pray this centering prayer, "Be still and know that I am God." After a few breaths, repeat the prayer again, each time saying one less word—"Be still and know that I am...", "Be still and know that I..." until only silence is left. Amen.

5. **Oil a bowl, put dough in it and cover with a towel.**

Pray: God, we do not always see how you are at work in our lives. Your ways feel hidden from us. Help us to trust that you are always with us. Amen.

6. **Let dough rise in a warm place for one hour until doubled.**

Pray: God, we pray that you will help us to grow into the people you call us to be: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. Amen.

7. Punch down dough and divide in half.

Pray: God, we pray for our divided world. Help us to treat one another with respect and love, remembering when we are separated that we all come from you and are your beloved children. Amen.

8. Let dough rest about 5 minutes.

Pray: God, help us to find rest in these strange days. As our lives have abruptly changed, guide us to breathe deeply and to pause, witnessing the gifts you have given us. Help us to encourage rest and reflection in this time. Amen.

9. Spray baking pan or cookie sheet with cooking spray.

Pray: God, give us the strength to let go of all that holds us back from you. Lead us to not cling to the ways of the world, but instead to hold fast to freedom we find in you. Amen.

10. Shape the dough into 2 small rounded oval loaves.

Pray: God, shape us into the people that you have created us to be. Help us to embrace the unique gifts each of us have, not living in comparison. Mold us to be people of great kindness, grace, and compassion for one another and for ourselves. Amen.

11. Let loaves rise again until doubled, about 45 minutes.

Pray: God, in this Holy Week we await the Risen Christ. Christ lived, died, and rose again so that we might have new life in you. We give you thanks for the gift of life and for the salvation that is ours in Christ. Amen.

12. Preheat oven to 375°F. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, until lightly browned.

Pray: God, we pray for all those who are waiting to eat and for those who do not know where their next meal will come from. Sustain and nourish us, and help us to share with one another, that all may be fed. Amen.

13. Carefully remove from oven, brush with remaining butter (and salt if desired.)

Pray: God, you are the bread of heaven, the giver and redeemer of all life. In you, we are made one with the Body of Christ across the world. You proclaim to the world, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Bless this food, that as we eat of this bread and drink of the cup, we proclaim together your saving life. Amen.