

HOLY WEEK AT HOME¹

GOOD FRIDAY



Introduction

As we celebrate the Passion of Jesus Christ we are reminded of the injustices that pervade our world. Often these systems of oppression, hate, and fear are so commonplace in our world that perhaps we do not even notice them. Good Friday serves as a good reminder of this reality. It is easy to become discouraged, to see the work that has to be done and look away. Today we pray that we may have the conscience to see and the courage to act, remembering that death never wins. Life and love always prevail in Christ.

Today, we seek to enter more fully into our relationship with Christ and recommit to pray and work for the good of the church and world.

Opening Prayer:

A photograph of a sign that reads "PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY". The sign is dark with the words in white and red. The background is dark and blurry.

Lord of Glory,
we proclaim your death and look ever forward to your
Resurrection.

As we contemplate your Cross,
the tree on which you hung so that we may have life,
may we be ever aware of the life that springs from
death,
the light that rises from darkness,

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and the hope that banishes fear.

Draw us close to you,

so that we may know the glory your Cross points to.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Reading: *Place a cross on a table or some other place of honour, adding candles if you wish.*

Read in your Bible John 18:1 – 19:42. Then read David's reflection on the passage.



Allow some time for your own silent reflection as you gaze upon the cross and grow in relationship with Jesus. Then continue with:

Litany for Forgiveness:

For the times we have not loved as we are called to love . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we have cultivated doubt instead of hope . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times that selfishness, greed, and lust influence our decisions . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we nurture isolation instead of community . . . *Father, forgive.*

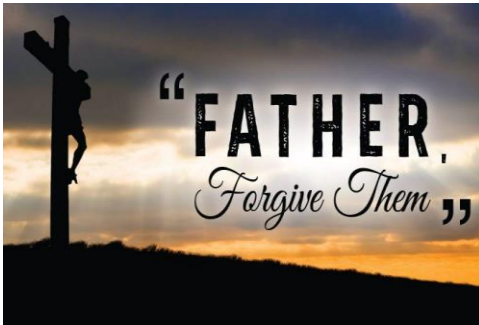
For the times we hear the needs of others but refuse to act . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we pass judgment on ourselves and those whom we encounter . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we create divisions . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we neglect care for our common home . . . *Father, forgive.*

For the times we are not good stewards of the gifts you give us . . . *Father, forgive.*



Intercessions:

Confident that Jesus Christ hears our prayer, let us offer our petitions with open hearts.

For the church, for our Bishop, and for all women and men who live their lives in service of God: May they know the intimacy of authentic relationship with Christ.

For all baptised in Christ: May they respond to their baptismal call with courage, opening their hearts to the invitation of God.

For all who are sick or suffering in body, mind, or spirit: May they know the great compassion of God through those who care for them.

For peace in our families, communities, nation, and world: May all seek resolution to disagreement and difference in ways that protect the life and dignity of all people.

For all who are unemployed or underemployed: May they find opportunities to use their gifts for the service of others in ways that are sustaining and life-giving.

For all who grieve: May they know the consolation of hope found in Christ.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathering these prayers together, as well as those we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Concluding Prayer:

Loving God,

We praise you in a special way today as we celebrate

Good Friday.

Be with us as we continue our journey through Holy Week,
that we may more closely align our lives with yours,
knowing that death never wins,
and that life and love always prevail.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Share a sign of Christ's peace with your family.

Continuing the Conversation: Take some time to pray the psalm prescribed in the Lectionary - Psalm 22.

