



Here is a service that you can use in your home and some suggestions for making it a meaningful worship experience.

- Use it by yourself or with whoever lives with you.
- Find a space in your home where you can feel relaxed and at peace.
- Consider dimming the lights and lighting one or several candles to create a meditative atmosphere.
- If you have a cross in your home you might put it nearby. It could be large or small, decorative or plain.
- Read the words out loud. It might seem strange if you are alone, but there's power in hearing the words.
- Some parts are in bold print if you wish to alternate parts.
- There are some suggested times for silence. You can use that to consider what you just read or simply sit quietly with little thought at all.
- Take your time. We all have more of it these days.
- Include music as you like. Some favorite Good Friday hymns include:  
*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*  
*Ah, Holy Jesus*  
*Were You There*  
*The Old Rugged Cross*  
*Sing, My Tongue*  
*Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed*  
YouTube is a good source, but you might get a version of a song with a different tune than you're used to. It's hard to go wrong with The National Lutheran Choir or one of the Lutheran college choirs, or turn to Elvis, Johnny Cash or Willie Nelson if your tastes take you there.
- The service is a modified version of The Stations of the Cross.
- Whether you're alone or with a few others, may your time be blessed and sacred.

# Good Friday

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

## THE SOLEMN REPROACHES

*The reproaches have been used as part of Good Friday rites since the 9th century. Imagery is drawn from both the Old and New Testaments.*

Is it nothing to you all who pass by?

Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted in the day of his fierce anger.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way; I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me! I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink; I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed; I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me! I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you

have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

## The Way of the Cross

Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." *Matthew 16:24-25*

**Mercifully assist us, O God of our salvation: That we may remember with joy the mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

READING

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." So, after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

RESPONSE

By a perversion of justice:

**he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet, it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. *Isaiah 53:8-10a***

PRAYER

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of sinners and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*silence*



## JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

### READING

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha

### RESPONSE

I gave my back to those who struck me:

**and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;**

**I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.**

**The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.**

**Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.**

**It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? *Isaiah 50:6-9a***

### PRAYER

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of sinners and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*silence*



## THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON

### READING

As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

### RESPONSE

A disciple is not above the teacher:

**nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. *Matthew 10:24-25a, 37-38***

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

*silence*



JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

READING

A great number of the people followed Jesus, and among them were women who were wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

RESPONSE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
**the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation,  
who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those  
who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves  
are consoled by God.**

**For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us,  
so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.**    *2 Corinthians 1:3-5*

PRAYER

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are but mortal flesh, and the span of our lives is very brief. Help us to see our frailty and affliction as a sharing in Christ's frailty and affliction, and through them, the path to life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*silence*



JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

READING

When they came to the place called Golgotha, they offered him wine to drink, mixed with myrrh; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. They took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did.

RESPONSE

All of you must clothe yourselves with humility:

**in your dealings with one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. 1 Peter 5:5b, 7, 10**

PRAYER

O God, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*silence*



JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

READING

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

RESPONSE

When we were dead in trespasses:

**God made us alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:13-14**

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name.

*silence*



JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

READING

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

RESPONSE

When you make his life an offering for sin

**he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.** *Isaiah 53:10b-12*

PRAYER

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; who lives and reigns now and forever.

*silence*



JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

READING

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, Pilate granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth.

RESPONSE

I will pour out a spirit of compassion:

**and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.** *Zechariah 12:10*

PRAYER

Gracious Lord and Consoler of all who mourn, comfort us in all our partings. Turn the darkness of death into the brightness of day for those we love. Help us always to put out faith in you and entrust our loved ones into your infinite care; through Christ our Lord.

*silence*



JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

READING

Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. He and Joseph took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

RESPONSE

Thus says the Lord God:

**"I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.** *Ezekiel 37:12-13a,14*

PRAYER

O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day. Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns forever and ever.

*silence*

CONCLUSION

Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us. We glory in your cross, O Lord, and we praise your holy resurrection, for by your cross joy has come into the world. We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  
**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

May God be merciful and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us. Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.