



## **Morning Prayer to share at 10 am on Sunday**

*You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background. Have a Bible to hand.*

*If there is more than one person present, someone may wish to read the parts marked (L), everyone says the rest together. You can say alternate verses in the psalm.*

*(L) During Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. We go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.*

*All: Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

*Read the Palm Gospel – Matthew 21 v 1 – 11*

*Jesus knows what awaits him in Jerusalem, how those in authority are looking to destroy Him. Yet, still, he rides into the city because he is determined to fulfil the Father's will. The people hail him as their king – they think he is about to free them from the yoke of the Roman occupation. They don't understand the true nature of Jesus' Kingship/Messiahship, they haven't really listened to him. His is not a military way, but the way of Love. In a few days' time the same voices crying 'Hosanna', will be shouting Crucify! Such is the fickleness of human nature, so easily led astray by the forces of evil. We should pray for courage to carry on doing the things that God is calling us to do, and to strive to conquer evil with love. Forgiving those who wrong us, just as Jesus did.*

*All: True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.*

*(L): The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. God is close to those who trust in him.*

*All: O Lord, open our lips, and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

*(L): The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind:*

*All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.*

*(L): God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith: (Pause for reflection)*

*O God, you know my foolishness and my sins are not hidden from you: Lord, have mercy.*

*Let not the flood overwhelm me nor the depths swallow me up; let not the pit shut its mouth upon me: Christ, have mercy.*

*Hear me, O Lord, as your loving kindness is good; turn to me as your compassion is great: Lord, have mercy*

*Read Psalm 118 v 1 – 2 & 19 - 29 from your Bible – slowly, and ending with:*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.*

*Now read the 3 readings for today (see front of this sheet) and pause to reflect on them. Here are some thoughts:*

*The prophet Isaiah speaks of the 'teacher' who listens to God and does not turn backwards. He accepts insult and injury for God's sake, knowing that God helps him and vindicates him. Such confidence is, of course, manifested at its' best by Jesus, who accepts rejection and suffering for our sakes, knowing that the Father is with him. We need to pray for such strength and courage in the challenges we face, especially in the difficulties of the present time.*

*In Philippians, Paul prays that the same mind be in us that was in Jesus, who, though divine, became human for our sakes. He humbled himself and was obedient, even to death. So, God highly exalted Him and His name is now the most powerful in heaven and on earth. When we pray 'in Jesus name' God always hears us, knowing, from his own experience, what we are going through, he understands us.*

*This mornings Gospel reading is a real marathon! In church we dramatize it – if there are several of you today, why not try to do the same? It is important, though, at the start of this Holy Week, that we have the whole story of what happened to Jesus in our minds. This Jesus, who is 'good above all other', is betrayed by friends and denied even by his closest companion. The people who had recently hailed him, now shouted for his blood. Those who should have known better were prejudiced against him – he didn't fit with their pre-conceived ideas of the Messiah. Jesus obedience to God should be our inspiration. In His feelings of desolation we may find echoes of our own despair at times in our lives. We, too, can feel forsaken. But God's power is manifested in the earth-shattering events at the point of His death. God is still there, His mighty power will not just mark Christ's death, but bring about His Resurrection, and the promise of ours. This is not the end.*

*Prayers (the Leader may do the petition, then all reply)*

*We bring to the Father our prayers of intercession through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world:*

*For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus: Lord, hear our prayer.*

*For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them: Lord, hear our prayer.*

*For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ: Lord, hear our prayer.*

*For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy: Lord, hear our prayer.*

*For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground: Lord, hear our prayer.*

*For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace: Lord, have mercy.*

*For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement: Lord, hear our prayer.*

*For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them: Lord hear our prayer.*

*For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross: Lord hear our prayer.*

*That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ: Lord hear our prayer.*

*The Lord's Prayer*

*(L): The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. Amen.*

*(L): Let us bless the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.*

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# **WORSHIP FOR HOLY WEEK**

## **COLLECT FOR MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY**

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Reading for Monday: John 12 v 1 – 11- Jesus is anointed

Reading for Tuesday: John 12 v 20 – 36 – Walk in the light

Reading for Wednesday: John 13 v 21 – 32 – Judas betrays

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

*Suggested time to be praying together 7 – 30 pm*

*Two themes characterise this evening – service to others and thanksgiving for Holy Communion. Sadly we will not be able to partake of the Sacrament tonight, but we can pray for that time when, once again, we will be able to receive Jesus in Bread and Wine and so be strengthened and empowered for our work in his service. We can also pray for our brothers and sisters around the world also deprived of their spiritual food. We rejoice that we are still members of the One Body which is Christ Himself.*

*Read Exodus 12 v 1 – 14 and I Corinthians 11 v 23 – 26*

*This reading from Exodus tells the story of the first Jewish Passover. God has heard the cries of His people, in slavery in Egypt, and is about to rescue them. Moses is commanded to tell the people how to avoid the destruction that God has planned for the firstborn of the Egyptians. Each household is to sacrifice a lamb and put some blood on the doorposts and lintel, so that the angel of the Lord will 'pass over' the houses of the people of Israel and spare them. This is a sign of a new beginning for Israel and the custom continued to the time of Jesus. His death, however, at Passover time, is the ultimate sacrifice for sin that needs never to be repeated. At the meal he ate with His disciples on the night before he died on the cross, Jesus gives us a new 'Passover meal'. The bread and wine become His own Body and His Blood. As St Paul makes clear in 1 Corinthians 11 this tradition of the church comes directly from Jesus Himself – 'Do this in remembrance of me' is what links us with Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and makes it present for us today. Jesus is recognized as the Lamb of God, who dies no more, but brings life to all who partake of Him. He is the new beginning for all who believe.*

*So we pray together:*

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that in the wonderful sacrament of Holy Communion you have given us the memorial of your passion: grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives the fruit of your redemption, for you are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

*A prayer for 'Spiritual Communion' this evening:*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul, so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

*Now read John 13 v 1 – 17 & 31b - 35*

*We now remember how Jesus washed His Disciples' feet as an example of service for us all to follow. He gave them a new commandment to love one another. Jesus told them 'If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet'.*

*Today we can re-commit ourselves to the service of others in whatever ministries God has called each of us. God has a service He is calling us to do, let us re-commit ourselves to that on this very special night:*

God our Father, in our baptism you made us witnesses to the death and resurrection of your Son. Send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, as we take upon us the yoke of your obedience. Make us instruments of your peace, and doers of your perfect will. Amen.

God our Father, in the name of Christ and in the power of your Spirit, we commit ourselves to you and one another, to live, work, and pray as one body in Christ, to trust each other as fellow workers in your Church, and to give ourselves with body, mind, and spirit to the ministries to which you have called us. Give us vision, give us courage, and give us joy, that the world may believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, to your eternal glory. Amen.

*Prayers*

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet. We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service. Lord, hear us and humble us.

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one. We pray for the unity of your Church. Lord, hear us and unite us.

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through his disciples' message. We pray for the mission of your Church. Lord, hear us and renew our zeal.

On this night, he commanded his disciples to love, but suffered rejection himself. We pray for the rejected and unloved. Lord, hear us and fill us with your love.

On this night, he reminded his disciples that if the world hated them it hated him first. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith. Lord, hear us and give us your peace.

On this night, he accepted the cup of death and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom. We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ. Lord, hear us and welcome all your children into paradise.

*The Lord's Prayer*

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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*Traditionally, after the Eucharist this evening, we process the Sacrament to the Lady Chapel and keep a short watch, just as Jesus asked His disciples to do in the Garden of Gethsemane on this night. Tonight, you may wish to keep a time of silent prayer in your own home.*

*The story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and Peter's denial on this night can be found in Matthew 26 v 30 to the end.*

Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace. Amen.

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray, and drive far from it the snares of the enemy; may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace, and may your blessing be always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## GOOD FRIDAY at 3 pm

*Set up a cross and light a candle. This service should include periods of silence and reflection. Today we are appalled at the depths to which human sinfulness can reach. So, let us pray for all those who, even now, are suffering pain and torment because of what others are doing, or have done to them. Jesus is innocent, but He allows Himself to go through such pain and degradation in order that we may be cleansed from our sins and set free.*

**All:** Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*The readings speak for themselves today, pause after each one and listen to what God is saying to you in these words.*

Isaiah 52 v 13 to chapter 53 v 12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 4 v 14 to 16 & chapter 5 v 7 to 9; John Chapter 18 to Chapter 19 v 42.

**God reproaches us from the cross**

*(L) My people, what wrong have I done to you? What good have I not done for you? Listen to me:*

*(L) I am your Creator, Lord of the universe; I have entrusted this world to you, but you have created the means to destroy it. All: Lord have mercy.*

*(L) I made you in my image, but you have degraded body and spirit and marred the image of your God. You have deserted me and turned your backs on me. All: Lord have mercy.*

*(L) I filled the earth with all that you need, so that you might serve and care for one another, as I have cared for you; but you have cared only to serve your own wealth and power. All: Lord have mercy on us.*

*(L) I made my children of one blood to live in families rejoicing in one another; but you have embittered the races and divided the nations. All: Lord have mercy.*

*(L) I commanded you to love your neighbour as yourself, to love and forgive even your enemies; but you have made vengeance your rule and hate your guide. All: Lord have mercy.*

*(L) In the fullness of time I sent you my Son, that in him you might know me, and through him find life and peace; but you put him to death on the cross. All: Lord have mercy*

*(L) Through the living Christ, I called you into my Church to be my servants to the world, but you have grasped at privilege and forgotten my will. All: Lord have mercy.*

*(L) I have given you a heavenly gift and a share in the Holy Spirit; I have given you the spiritual energies of the age to come; but you have turned away and crucified the Son of God afresh. All: Lord have mercy*

*(L) I have consecrated you in the truth; I have made you to be one in the unity of the Father and the Son, by the power of the Spirit; but you have divided my Church and shrouded my truth. All: Lord have mercy*

*(L) Let your bearing to one another arise out of your life in Christ Jesus. He humbled himself and in obedience accepted the death of the cross. But I have bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.*

**All: Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

**All:** Father, hear our prayer and forgive us. Unstop our ears, that we may receive the gospel of the cross. Lighten our eyes, that we may see your glory in the face of your Son. Penetrate our minds, that your truth may make us whole. Irradiate our hearts with your love, that we may love one another for Christ's sake. Father, forgive us. Amen.

*You are now invited to pray for the Church, the Nations of the World, the Jewish People, Unbelievers, all who suffer – especially because of the current pandemic, the Departed.*

**The Lord's Prayer**

**All:** Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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**Curates Corner: A message from Revd. Carol**

At the time of writing, John and I have been in 'lockdown' since the 16th March, about a week before the official one started. My fears of probable boredom and going 'stir crazy', or coming down with a severe case of 'cabin fever' have to date not manifested themselves. In fact, after my initial feelings of woe about not being able to help out physically in the parish, I have been somewhat taken over by actually being able to take quality time out with God.

As many of you know from time to time I have run a retreat, and it is in retreating that we can see, hear and learn to just 'be' with God. That is exactly what I've been doing whilst carrying out extra jobs around the house and garden (my favourite place to be, other than walking the dog in the copse). I have found that the mind begins to wander and before I know it another hour or two has passed me by. In those times too, I have found that much of my thinking has been reflective, thinking on those things in life that are important and how God is in it all with us, even when we don't exactly understand what is going on. It is in those moments I am aware of hearing His voice in my thoughts, sights and sounds that I've been experiencing.

As we continue on our journey through the trial of this pandemic, especially as we approach the most important time of the year for Christians, it has made me reflect on Jesus' journey towards the cross. Like us He must surely have had fears about the unknown. Like us He prayed to the Father for guidance, to give Him strength for what lay ahead, and we the same as Him, like no other time in our lives perhaps, we must put our faith and trust in God - 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' Luke 22:42 (NRSV Anglicised).

On 17th March I posted on Facebook: 'Social Distancing. For people of faith this can be turned around into a time of retreat, a time spent with God listening to Him, waiting upon the Holy Spirit who will bring you peace and comfort in what can seem a lonely time. Remember we can all be praying for each other and for those who will be on the front line caring for people, both in the community and hospitals. That message still remains the same and I suspect will do so for some time yet. I hope and pray that you have, and continue, to find the 'lockdown' spiritually enriching and that your time of isolation, whether that is on your own or in a household with other family members, will draw you closer to God, and as we approach Easter, brings you a deeper sense of understanding of what He has done for us through His Son, Jesus. Keep safe, keep well, with love and prayers, Carol.

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