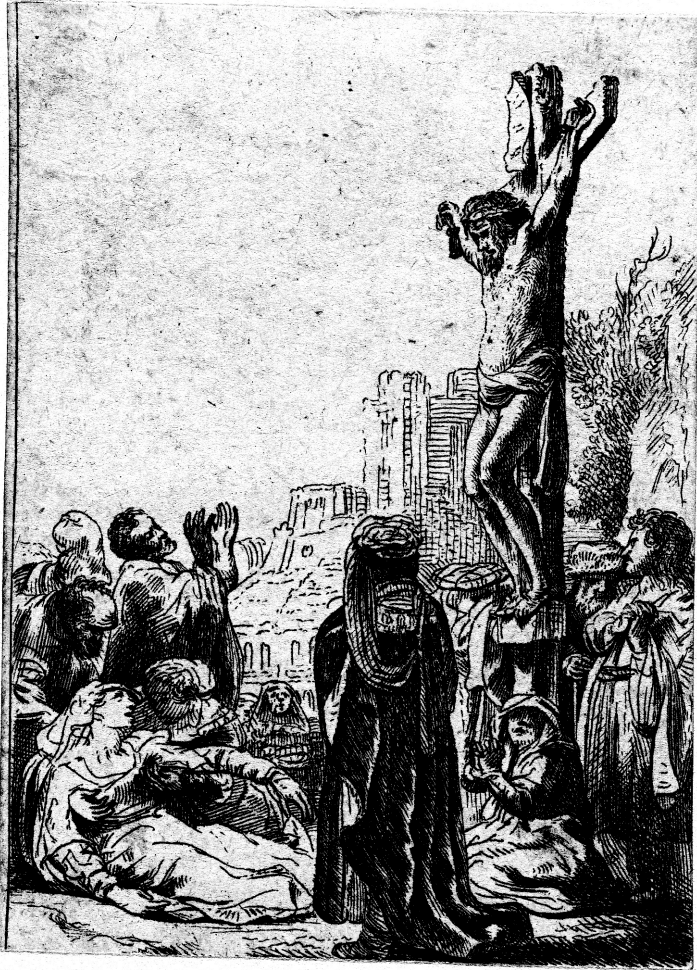


Prayer at Home



Good Friday

Preparation

*This prayer may either be used by a household group or an individual. Where there is a group, texts said in response to a Leader are in **bold**.*

This prayer uses a shorter version of the Passion readings from John's Gospel. If you would like to read the whole text it can be found on www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Flu/index.html If you have a cross or crucifix place it in the table in front of you. If not, you may be able to make a simple cross. When everyone is seated at the table, begin your prayer with a brief period of silence.

Introduction

Christ was humbler yet,
even to accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name which is above all names. (Phil 2:8-9)

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you
because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.

Gospel

John 19:17-18. 25-30

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Carrying his own cross Jesus went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified him with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed, and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said: 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of vinegar stood there, so putting a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, 'It is accomplished,' and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

Here all kneel (or bow their heads) and pause for a short time.

It was Preparation Day, and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the sabbath — since that sabbath was a day of special solemnity — the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with

him and then of the other. When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water. This is the evidence of one who saw it — trustworthy evidence, and he knows he speaks the truth — and he gives it so that you may believe as well.

Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture: ‘Not one bone of his will be broken;’ and again, in another place scripture says: ‘They will look on the one whom they have pierced.’

After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, who was a disciple of Jesus — though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews — asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away. Nicodemus came as well — the same one who had first come to Jesus at night-time — and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, following the Jewish burial custom.

Reflection

Spend a few minutes in silence to reflect on the passion and death of Jesus.

Intercessions

Pray for family and loved ones so that they may be held in God’s compassionate care.

Pray for the Holy Father and for the Church that he will guide God’s people with hope and mercy.

Pray for other countries who are struggling with the effects of the COVID 19 virus.

Pray for those in authority whose task it is to keep people safe.

Prayer for all who work in the health service and bring healing and support.

Pray for all who are worried at this time for their own future and the future of those whom they love.

Finish each prayer with:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer

Conclude your reflection on the Passion of the Lord by saying the following prayer.

Almighty and all-merciful God,
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,
in whom there is no shadow of death,
save us in this time of crisis;
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;
watch over all medical people
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,
that hope may never die
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,
may shine upon us and the whole world.
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

**Liturgy
Office**

ENGLAND
& WALES

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The crucifixion: small plate, anonymous, after Rembrandt van Rijn, after 1635, Rijksmuseum.

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