

HOME WORSHIP FOR GOOD FRIDAY

without full scripture text

10 APRIL 2020

While Easter is every Sunday, the days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are like one great annual Sunday. Because of the pandemic, we cannot do these important services together in church. While Easter is a joyful festival, we keep it now in a time of difficulty and worldwide sorrow. Still, we believe that Christ is with us in his word, by his Spirit drawing us together as one before God. We believe that the gospel of Christ gives us strength amid distress and comfort in the face of our sufferings.

These three services are really one event, stretched over three days. As a sign of unity, you might consider using these three resources for prayer at the time the congregation would have gathered in the church building or at another commonly designated time. (Alternatively, several homes together or the entire congregation may observe these services using Zoom, Facetime, or some other internet platform.)

For this Good Friday service, place a cross (e.g., a freestanding cross, a cross necklace, an image from the internet, a hand-drawn cross on paper) in a prominent location.

These resources for worship at home on the Three Days were developed by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw for Resurrection Lutheran Church, Arlington, Virginia, and are offered for ecumenical use. They have been slightly adapted for United Methodist use.

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GOOD FRIDAY

Sit before a cross or the image of a cross.

Begin with this prayer.

Almighty God,
look with loving mercy on your family,
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed,
and to be given over to the hands of sinners,
and to suffer death on the cross;
who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Then read the following:

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 52:13—53:12

PSALM 22

GOSPEL: JOHN 18:1—19:42

After the readings:

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Having read these readings, think of this:

Jesus Christ is a root out of dry ground. By his wounds we are healed. These paradoxes of Isaiah are echoed in the account in John about his death: he is arrested, yet when he speaks the soldiers fall down; he is tried, yet he is King and Son of God and Man; he is thirsty and dying, yet he is the source of the Spirit and of water and blood to heal us; finally he is buried, but it is in a garden. All of this means to tell us that God shares our sorrow and need and death, and yet transforms it to life and salvation and hope. More than just a root out of dry ground, his cross is the great tree of life in which we all may shelter. You may shelter there today. All those things in all the world that we pray for today, God holds together in him.

Here you may share your thoughts with others. Or, if a Good Friday sermon has been prerecorded, listen to it or view it here.

If you have the United Methodist Hymnal, you might now read or sing

Hymn # 298 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Or: *Mil Voces para Celebrar* #138

[https://hymnary.org/text/when i survey the wondrous cross watts](https://hymnary.org/text/when_i_survey_the_wondrous_cross_watts)

Hymn # 288 “Were You There”

Or: *Mil Voces para Celebrar* #137

[https://hymnary.org/text/were you there when they crucified my lo](https://hymnary.org/text/were_you_there_when_they_crucified_my_lo)

The Bidding Prayer

A brief silence follows each intercession.

We pray for the church throughout the world. . .
we pray for our bishop, our pastor, and all servants of the church. . .
we pray for those preparing for baptism. . .
we pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God. . .
we pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. . .
we pray for those who do not believe in God. . .
we pray for God’s creation. . .
we pray for those who serve in public office. . .
we pray for those in any need. . .
and we pray for all afflicted by the coronavirus. . .

Finally, we pray:

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 forever. Amen.

Conclude with these words:

We adore you, Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Three Days continues tomorrow with the Vigil of Easter