

GOOD FRIDAY

GUIDE FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Welcome to this time of silent prayer.

Feel free to use this guide as you are led.

Read silently through the prayers, Scriptures, and hymns, or simply take this opportunity to be quiet before the Lord.

With an expectant faith, invite the Holy Spirit to enable you to be open, receptive, and grateful.

Come and worship the God whose love for you is made clear beyond the shadow of any doubt through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross.

SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God, who redeems us from sin and death.

For us and for the salvation of all, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

HYMN 240 Were You There Words: African American Spiritual

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Lord Jesus Christ, by your suffering and death, you carried our sins and the sins of all people on the cross that we might live. May we, and all who remember your sacrifice this day, find new life in you, both now and in the world to come. Meet us as we bow before you. Speak to our hearts and draw us near, that we may receive your grace, learn your path of obedience, and be raised with you to everlasting life. Amen.

PSALM READING Psalm 22 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+22&version=NRSV>

SILENT PRAYER

HYMN 224 Beneath the Cross of Jesus Words: Elizabeth Clephane

Beneath the cross of Jesus

I fain would take my stand,

the shadow of a mighty Rock

within a weary land;

a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus
mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One
who suffered there for me:
and from my stricken heart with tears
two wonders I confess,
the wonders of redeeming love
and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow
for my abiding place:
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss;
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Psalm 51 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+51&version=NRSV>
Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF PARDON 1 John 1:5-9

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light. In God there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with God, yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. In the Name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL LESSON John 18:1 – 19:42 (or 19:16-42)
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+18%3A1+%E2%80%93+19%3A42+%E2%80%93+19%3A42&version=NRSV>

HYMN 222 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Words: Isaac Watts

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

BENEDICTION

Go in peace. May our Lord Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, even death on a cross, keep you and strengthen you today and forever. Amen.