



—Bernadette Lopez

## Holy Week Prayers

### Monday Vespers

*You are invited to pray these words following supper,  
or anytime in the evening before going to sleep.*

## Before beginning...

- ✚ *Light a candle as a sign that God is with you in Spirit.*
- ✚ *If you're using the audio recording, feel free to stop and start it as necessary. If you're not using the recording, you are free to pray through the material as you wish.*
- ✚ *If you're with a group, you may wish to have different people read different sections. Or you may have a leader read the light print, and have the group read together the text in bold print.*
- ✚ *Where you see a + you are invited to make the sign of the cross.*
- ✚ *You may want to create a family "altar" in your home for Holy Week. Pick a spot in your house where you can gather by yourself or with others, and there place a candle, a cross, and a bowl.*
- ✚ *Have a handful of coins nearby, preferably enough so that each person can hold 2 or more.*



THE CALL TO PRAYER

O tarry, and await the Lord's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the Lord.

-Psalm 27:18

THE GREETING

**In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. For you are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence since I was young. I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you.**

-Psalm 71:1, 5-6

SONG FOR THE DAY ~ *Everything We Need*

In the morning Lord we do look to you  
For the strength we need just to make it through.  
Have mercy.

In the evening Lord we look back and say  
It was in your strength that we made our way.  
Have mercy

You are everything we need.  
Feed us Lord.

-Gord Johnson / Steve Bell

**Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.**

-Psalm 85:7

PRAYER OF ORIENTATION

Come to your Temple here with liberation  
And overturn these tables of exchange,  
Restore in me my lost imagination,  
Begin in me for good the pure change.  
Come as you came, an infant with your mother,  
That innocence may cleanse and claim this ground.  
Come as you came, a boy who sought his father  
With questions asked and certain answers found.  
Come as you came this day, a man in anger,  
Unleash the lash that drives a pathway through,  
Face down for me the fear, the shame, the danger,  
Teach me again to whom my love is due.  
Break down in me the barricades of death  
And tear the veil in two with your last breath.

-Malcolm Guite

CONFESSION

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father: I have sinned against you, through my own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, in what I have done and in what I have left undone. For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me all my offenses; and grant that I may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name. Amen. +**

*~ Listening Silence ~*

*Be attentive to what God wishes to communicate to you.*

*(Feel free to pause your playback device)*

When your word goes forth it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. *-Psalm 119:130*  
**Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.**

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE

*(read by Katherine Wight)*

Listen to me, distant nations,  
you people who live far away!  
Before I was born, the LORD chose me  
and appointed me to be his servant.  
He made my words as sharp as a sword.  
With his own hand he protected me.  
He made me like an arrow,  
sharp and ready for use.  
He said to me, "Israel, you are my servant;  
because of you, people will praise me."  
I said, "I have worked, but how hopeless it is!  
I have used up my strength, but have accomplished nothing."  
Yet I can trust the LORD to defend my cause;  
the reward that is my due is in the Lord's hand.

And now the Lord has spoken, who formed me in the womb to be his servant  
to re-unite Jacob back with him and gather to him his scattered people Israel.  
The LORD gives me honor;  
he is the source of my strength.  
The Lord says: "It is not enough for you to be my servant,  
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel;  
I shall make you a light to the nations  
so that all the world may be saved."

Israel's holy God and saviour says to the one who is deeply despised,  
who is hated by the nations and is the servant of rulers:  
"Kings will see you released and will rise to show their respect;  
princes also will see it, and they will bow low to honor you."  
This will happen because the LORD has chosen his servant;  
the holy God of Israel keeps his promises.

*-Isaiah 49:1-6*

**Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.**

## PRAYER FOR OTHERS

*Take the opportunity to hold some coins. Feel their weight in the palm of your hand. Feel their texture. Money allows us to buy what we want or need. How have you found contentment in God—even today? Money also allows us to help others. What needs are you aware of that need satisfying? When ready, offer your gratitude and your cares, along with the coins, by placing them in the bowl, or at the foot of the cross, or by the candle.*

*(Feel free to pause your playback device)*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous. May the Lord Almighty grant us and those we love a peaceful night and a perfect end; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## THE CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Lord, it is evening after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.**

**The night is dark. It is for stillness. Let our fears of the darkness, of the world, and of our lives rest in You. Let us be still in your Presence.**

**The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace.**

**The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, and new possibilities. Amen. +**

*~ Listening Silence ~*

*In the quiet, let yourself come to rest in God's presence.*

*(Feel free to pause your playback device)*

THE FINAL THANKSGIVING

**Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised; for these eyes of mine have seen the Saviour, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: a Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

