



–Wayne Forte

## **Holy Week Prayers**

### **Wednesday Morning**

*You are invited to pray these words at any time before noon.*

## 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.*



THE CALL TO PRAYER

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

-Psalm 22:22

THE GREETING

**To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens. As the eyes of the servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to you our God, awaiting your word of mercy.**

-Psalm 123:1-3

**Let my soul rise up to meet you as the day rises to meet the sun. Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.**

SONG FOR THE DAY ~ *Bethany in the Morning*

Praise the Lord! Blessed be  
Who has come to help the house called Bethany,  
And defends those broken friends who've been crying.  
Comes a light, breaks the dawn;  
Can you feel the ray of hope for those whose hope is gone?  
Lift your head, dry your eyes, time for rising.

Praise the Lord! Blessed be  
Who brings comfort to the very least of these;  
In whose hands the journey ends, joy surprises  
From the east, with every morn;  
Can you hear the voice that summons up Horizon's song?  
Lift your head, dry your eyes, time for rising.

Praise the Lord! Blessed be He  
Anointed in the house of misery,  
Who defends the humble hands that bode His dying.  
Who braved the night, retrieved the dawn—  
A ray of hope for those whose hope is gone.  
Lift your head, dry your eyes, time for rising.

-Steve Bell

**Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

-Psalm 88:1-2

## PRAYER OF ORIENTATION

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations. To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him. My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's forever. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

—Psalm 22:26-30

**Tell it out among all the nations: “The Lord is King! He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge all the peoples with equity.”**

—Psalm 96:10

## WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE

*(read by Sydney Janzen)*

Jesus was at Bethany, a guest of Simon the Leper. While he was eating dinner, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus' head. Some of the guests became furious among themselves. “That's criminal! A sheer waste! This perfume could have been sold for well over a year's wages and handed out to the poor.” And they scolded her.

But Jesus said, “Let her alone. Why are you giving her a hard time? She has just done something wonderfully significant for me. You will have the poor with you every day for the rest of your lives. Whenever you feel like it, you can do something for them. Not so with me. She did what she could when she could—she pre-anointed my body for burial. And you can be sure that wherever in the whole world the Message is preached, what she just did is going to be talked about admiringly.”

—Mark 14:3-9

## *Listening Silence*

*(Feel free to pause your playback device)*

**Tell it out among all the nations: “The Lord is King! He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge all the peoples with equity.”**

## PRAYER FOR OTHERS

*Take a look at your hands. Notice the creases, the callouses, the nicks. As you think about the day ahead, what gifts do you have to offer the king? Which people and situations do you hope to see anointed?*

*(Feel free to pause your playback device)*

**While we sat in darkness, Lord Jesus Christ, you interrupted us with your life. Make us, your people, a holy interruption so that by your Spirit's power we may live as a sweet fragrance among the nations, even as we stumble through this world's dust and muck. 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 PRAYER APPOINTED FOR THE WEEK

**Almighty and ever living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. +**

THE CONCLUDING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought me in safety to this new day: Preserve me with your mighty power, that I may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity. Grant me and all your people the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. In all I do direct me to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. +**

