



## Holy Week Prayers

### Good Friday 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.*



### THE CALL TO PRAYER

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble, the Name of the God of Jacob defend you; send you help from his holy place and strengthen you out of Zion. Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will call upon the Name of the Lord our God. O Lord, give victory to the king and answer us when we call. *-Psalm 20:1-2, 7, 9*

### THE GREETING

**O Lord, I cry to you for help; in the morning my prayer comes before you.** *-Psalm 88:14*  
**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 ~ *Gone is the Light*

Into the darkness we must go;  
Gone, gone is the light.  
Into the darkness we must go;  
Gone, gone is the light.

Jesus, remember me  
When you enter your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me  
When your kingdom comes.

Father, forgive them;  
They know not what they do.  
Father, forgive them;  
They know not what they do.

*—Gord Johnson / Steve Bell*

**I cry out to you, O Lord; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”**

*—Psalm 142:5*

PRAYER OF ORIENTATION

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from my cry and from the words of my distress? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; by night as well, but I find no rest. I am scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots. But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!

*—Psalm 22:1-2, 6-7, 11, 14-15, 17-19*

**And now, what is my hope? O Lord, my hope is in you.**

*—Psalm 39:7*

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE  
(read by Jim Bush)

So Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. The soldiers, having braided a crown from thorns, set it on his head, threw a purple robe over him, and approached him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they greeted him with slaps in the face.

Pilate went back out again and said to them, "I present him to you, but I want you to know that I do not find him guilty of any crime." Just then Jesus came out wearing the thorn crown and purple robe.

Pilate announced, "Here he is: the Man."

When the high priests and police saw him, they shouted in a frenzy, "Crucify! Crucify!"

Pilate told them, "You take him. You crucify him. I find nothing wrong with him."

The Jews answered, "We have a law, and by that law he must die because he claimed to be the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he became even more scared. He went back into the palace and said to Jesus, "Where did you come from?"

Jesus gave no answer.

Pilate said, "You won't talk? Don't you know that I have the authority to pardon you, and the authority to crucify you?"

Jesus said, "You haven't a shred of authority over me except what has been given you from heaven. That's why the one who betrayed me to you has committed a far greater fault."

At this, Pilate tried his best to pardon him, but the Jews shouted him down: "If you pardon this man, you're no friend of Caesar's. Anyone setting himself up as 'king' defies Caesar."

When Pilate heard those words, he led Jesus outside. He sat down at the judgment seat in the area designated Stone Court (in Hebrew, *Gabbatha*). It was the preparation day for Passover. The hour was noon. Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is your king."

They shouted back, "Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!"

Pilate said, "I am to crucify your king?"

The high priests answered, "We have no king except Caesar."

Pilate caved in to their demand. He turned him over to be crucified.

They took Jesus away. Carrying his cross, Jesus went out to the place called Skull Hill (the name in Hebrew is *Golgotha*), where they crucified him, and with him two others, one on each side, Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote a sign and had it placed on the cross. It read:

JESUS THE NAZARENE

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Many of the Jews read the sign because the place where Jesus was crucified was right next to the city. It was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. The Jewish high priests objected.

"Don't write, 'The King of the Jews.' Make it, 'This man said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'""

Pilate said, "What I've written, I've written."

When they crucified him, the Roman soldiers took his clothes and divided them up four ways, to each soldier a fourth. But his robe was seamless, a single piece of weaving, so they said to each other, "Let's not tear it up. Let's throw dice to see who gets it." This confirmed the Scripture that said, "They divided up my clothes among them and threw dice for my coat." (The soldiers validated the Scriptures!)

While the soldiers were looking after themselves, Jesus' mother, his aunt, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood at the foot of the cross. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her. He said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that moment the disciple accepted her as his own mother.

Jesus, seeing that everything had been completed so that the Scripture record might also be complete, then said, "I'm thirsty."

A jug of sour wine was standing by. Someone put a sponge soaked with the wine on a javelin and lifted it to his mouth. After he took the wine, Jesus said, "It's done . . . complete." Bowing his head, he offered up his spirit.

Then the Jews, since it was the day of Sabbath preparation, and so the bodies wouldn't stay on the crosses over the Sabbath (it was a high holy day that year), petitioned Pilate that their legs be broken to speed death, and the bodies taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man crucified with Jesus, and then the other. When they got to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. One of the soldiers stabbed him in the side with his spear. Blood and water gushed out.

The eyewitness to these things has presented an accurate report. He saw it himself and is telling the truth so that you, also, will believe.

These things that happened confirmed the Scripture, "Not a bone in his body was broken," and the other Scripture that reads, "They will stare at the one they pierced."

*-John 19:1-37*

### *Listening Silence*

*(Feel free to pause your playback device)*

**And now, what is my hope? O Lord, my hope is in you.**

### PRAYER FOR OTHERS

*In the silence to follow, blow out the candle. Take time to gaze upon the cross that you have on your "altar." Or meditate on the picture of the cross at the beginning of the prayers. As you pray and reflect, you may wish to perform an act of reverence. For example, you may wish to touch the cross, or bow your head, or kneel, or even kiss the cross. Simply bask quietly in the power of the cross, and respond with prayers as you are led.*

*(Feel free to pause your playback device)*

**While we were still your enemies, Lord Jesus Christ, you suffered and died for us, winning the victory over death for our sakes. Give us grace to lift you up as we follow the way of your cross so that all people may be drawn unto you. 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

**O God, you sent Christ Jesus to be the lamb of sacrifice that overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. Help me to embrace the mystery of salvation, the promise of life rising out of death. Help me to hear the call of Christ and give me the courage to follow it readily that I, too, may lead others to you. This I ask through Jesus, my shepherd and guide. Amen. +**

