



-Sieger Koder

Holy Week Prayers

Saturday Morning

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

Before beginning...

- ⊕ *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

Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.

—Psalm 31:24

THE GREETING

O Lord, I am your servant; my times are in your hand.

—Psalm 31:15

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 ~ *Help, O Lord*

Help, O Lord, no one is good anymore.
Your faithful ones are fast disappearing.
My neighbor lies, speaks with deceit in his eyes,
With smiling lips but a heart that would hurt me.
Help, O Lord. Help, O Lord.

They all say, “Who can stop us anyway?
They’re our mouths—we can lie if we want to.
Our kingdom has come, it’s our will that will be done.
We’ll get ahead by any way we have to.
Help, O Lord. Help, O Lord.

The Lord replies, “I’ve seen your violence and your lies;
I’ve heard the cries and the groans of the helpless.
My promises are true—I’ll do what they have begged me to—
And I will rise, I will rise up and rescue.
I am the Lord. I am the Lord.”

Though the wicked talk a mighty talk,
And evil is praised throughout the land,
The Lord will hear the cries of the weak.
His promises are sure to stand.
Protect the helpless! Save the oppressed!
Preserve the faithful! Rescue the poor!
Help, O Lord. Help, O Lord.

—Ordinary Time

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

—Psalm 126:6-7

PRAYER OF ORIENTATION

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication. If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand? For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared. I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope. My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy; with him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. -Psalm 130

In your righteousness, deliver and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.

-Psalm 71:2

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE

(read by Ray Klassen)

Joseph of Arimathea (he was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, because he was intimidated by the Jews) petitioned Pilate to take the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission. So Joseph came and took the body.

Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus at night, came now in broad daylight carrying a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. They took Jesus' body and, following the Jewish burial custom, wrapped it in linen with the spices. There was a garden near the place he was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been placed. So, because it was Sabbath preparation for the Jews and the tomb was convenient, they placed Jesus in it. -John 19:38-42

Listening Silence

(Feel free to pause your playback device)

In your righteousness, deliver and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

In some Christian circles, today is known as the Great Sabbath—the day God rested after six days of work. Other Christians call today Black Saturday, since these are the dark hours in the wake of Jesus' burial. You are invited to experience a form of darkness by unplugging from your technology. Gather up your cell phones, tablets, game consoles, TV remotes, and so on and “rest from them” until Vespers—or at least for a portion of the day.

As you collect those items and put them in your basket, consider this: What do you put your hope in? What do you rely on for comfort and a sense of well-being? Who are the people and situations you think of that lack a sense of hopeful assurance?

(Feel free to pause your playback device)

As you hovered over the darkness that covered the earth at the beginning of time, may your Spirit move among us in the dark, chaotic silence of this day, preparing us for new life. 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, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this Great Sabbath, so I may patiently await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. +



Prayers adapted from *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals* by Enuma Okoro, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove and Shane Claiborne, and *The Divine Hours: Prayers for Springtime* by Phyllis Tickle.