

WORSHIP @ HOME



DAILY WORSHIP FOR HOLY WEEK GOOD FRIDAY



Preparing for worship:

Christian meditation music <http://www.viewpure.com/fOB73qRVGJs?start=0&end=0>

Take a few moments to be still.

The Greeting:

ALL: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN'.

Our tradition is to cross ourselves as this is said.

Opening prayer and lighting of one candle:

Lord God, we come to worship,
and to be reminded of our Saviour's passion;
by the power of your Spirit,
help us to enter fully into the journey of Holy Week, that we may be prepared once again
for the celebration that is Easter Day.

We ask in the name of our crucified and risen Lord.

Father God, help us to put you first every day and in every situation so the light from our flame grows tall, sending out more light to others.

ALL: Amen

Bible Reading:

A reading from Matthew Chapter 27 verses 15-17, 21-24 and Luke Chapter 23 verses 32-33, 44-47

Jesus Is Sentenced to Death

At every Passover Festival the Roman governor was in the habit of setting free any one prisoner the crowd asked for. At that time there was a well-known prisoner named Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to set free for you? Jesus Barabbas or Jesus called the Messiah?"

But Pilate asked the crowd, "Which one of these two do you want me to set free for you?"

"Barabbas!" they answered.

"What, then, shall I do with Jesus called the Messiah?" Pilate asked them.

"Crucify him!" they all answered.

But Pilate asked, "What crime has he committed?"

Then they started shouting at the top of their voices: "Crucify him!"

When Pilate saw that it was no use to go on, but that a riot might break out, he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am not responsible for the death of this man! This is your doing!"

The Death of Jesus

Two other men, both of them criminals, were also led out to be put to death with Jesus. When they came to the place called "The Skull," they crucified Jesus there, and the two criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

It was about twelve o'clock when the sun stopped shining and darkness covered the whole country until three o'clock; and the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father! In your hands I place my spirit!" He said this and died.

The army officer saw what had happened, and he praised God, saying, "Certainly he was a good man!"

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A message:

This was the last day of Jesus' life. He was put on trial before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate who washed his hands declaring that he was innocent of the prisoner's blood. Nonetheless, he condemned Jesus to die on the cross. So Jesus was crucified between two thieves.

They call it good Friday, when it didn't look good at all. Jesus was laughed at, beaten and crucified. But He went through it all for the thought of us with Him in heaven. The man who showed mercy and love, who brought people back to life, and made them well, was crying out on a cross. The ground shook when Jesus died, rocks split and the curtain was torn in two, but death had to win.

A time for reflection:

Listen to and/or sing 'When I survey the wondrous cross':

http://www.viewpure.com/4_fvFfPqjO4?ref=search

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 to 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.

Closing prayer:

Dear Lord,
Like Pilate, we would prefer to wash our hands, rather than take responsibility for difficult decisions. Like the crowd we would be most likely to be carried along by the prevailing mood, rather than speak out against injustice. Like the soldiers, we would carry out cruel duties, rather than risk our lives by protesting and refusal. Father, forgive us.

ALL: Amen.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us, now and evermore. Amen.

To finish, keep a minute or two of silence. Rest in the Lords presence. At the end, allow those who wish to stay a little longer to do so.

