

Daily Worship for Holy Week and Easter (Liturgies for Families/Small groups)

Created by Worship Ministries Endorsed Coaches, Joy Engelsman, Katie Roelofs, Ruth Ann Schuurings, Chris Walker and Joyce Borger, director of Worship Ministries.

Holy Week 2020 is like no other year in our collective memories. A global pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus has swept around the world, changing every part of our lives including our worship practices. Yet, in spite of the fact that we are unable to worship with our church families, many of us still feel the nudge of the Spirit to remember and reflect on the most significant week in the life of Jesus.

The following liturgies are intended to guide worshipers who are sheltering at home through the patterns of worship, following the steps of Christ from Palm Sunday, through the pain and darkness of the events of the week, and into the joy of Easter resurrection. Two versions of this worship guide are available: one for individuals, and another for families and small groups.

Each day follows a pattern of prayer, song, scripture reading, reflection and actions that we hope will set a reflective and memorable tone. If the song appears in the hymnal *Lift Up Your Hearts* (LUYH) we have indicated that and also provided links to videos and where possible lyrics and sheet music. We have included options so you can adapt these liturgies to your own needs. If you are worshipping with children, we encourage you to repeat the same songs and prayers each day as this will allow them to participate and remember more easily. In fact, all of us, at any age, could benefit from the simplicity of familiar patterns in these days when so much of the rest of our lives seems like chaos.

Each worship segment is intended to be 20-30 minutes long and is simple to prepare. Select a common space, find a candle, print the liturgy for the day and have a computer on hand if you want to play some of the songs. Read through the plan ahead of time to collect the few other creative things suggested, e.g., coats, coins, vinegar, rocks, etc.

Take your time. Be gentle with one another. Encourage participation, interaction and reflection. Above all, trust that the Spirit of God is with you.

Grace and Peace.

Sunday: Palm/Passion Sunday

God Calls us to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

Why do we light this candle?

To remember that Jesus is with us.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Have mercy on us and grant us your peace.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Praise and glory to you, O God.

-John 1:29

Gathering Song

You are encouraged to sing or listen to one or more of the following songs:

- *Oh, How He Loves You and Me* [lyric video](#) | [sheet music](#)
- *Jesus Loves Me* -LUYH 709 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Be Still and Know that I am God* LUYH 907 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Use the following prayer or your own, giving voice to the realities of the day within the greater context of the promise of the resurrection, and ask for the Holy Spirit to work through this time of worship.

God of all hope,
we gather today deeply aware
of the world's grief and pain --and our own.
Send your Holy Spirit here among us and
comfort us with the sure knowledge
that our Lenten journey will end in Easter joy.
Amen.

-adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook, J.1.4.9*; used with permission

God Speaks to Us and We Respond

Scripture Reading

Read Luke 19:28-40 or Matthew 21:1-11

Reflecting on God's Word

- Spread out coats in an open space and sit on them together as you open God's word.
 - How does this feel?
 - What might be the modern day equivalent to laying down coats for Jesus on his ride to Jerusalem?
- Since this is likely a familiar story for you, try reading it in a different translation or from a children's Bible. Listen for particular points in the story you might not have heard before.

Sung or Spoken Response

- Sing your favorite hosanna song! There are lots of them including:
 - *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* -LUYH 145 | [Audio](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
 - *Hosanna, in the Highest*- [YouTube with Lyrics](#)
 - *Hosanna* (Hillsong) -[YouTube with Lyrics](#)
- If you prefer not to sing, shout these words together:
Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
- An option especially for those with young children would be to sing one of these songs:
God is So Good -LUYH 777 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
There is a Redeemer -LUYH 833 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer or use one of the following, remembering to bring before God the needs of your family, community, world, and yourself.

1. O Jesus, you know the anguish of our human lives.
As one who sees the pain of those who suffer,
bring comfort, peace, and strength.
As one who has experienced the agony and tears of losing loved ones,
comfort all who grieve.
As one who wept over the faithlessness of your people,
send your Spirit to correct us in our unfaithfulness.
As one who understands the agony of those who have been deserted,
stand alongside those who feel alone and abandoned today.
As one who was once forsaken by all others,
give hope and assurance to those who feel rejection.
As one who knows the ravages of violence,
bring peace and healing to those who are tortured by enemies.
You, our Lord, have offered up prayers with loud cries and tears;
hear us when we do the same.

We approach your throne of grace with boldness.
May we receive mercy and grace in our time of need. **Amen.**

-The Worship Sourcebook, J.4.4.6, used with permission

2. Jesus our Redeemer; you flung your arms wide open to embrace the suffering of the world and bring hope and healing. As we journey to the cross this week, recounting and remembering your sacrifice of love for us, give us hearts that are open to receive and hands that are ready to serve. We acknowledge that this Holy Week is vastly different from others because of the current pandemic. Even while we are apart, draw us together in unity with Christ and all your children to once again travel the road to Calvary. And as we do so, we pray that you would again bring hope and healing to this world that is so desperately in need of your grace. Prepare our hearts, quiet our souls and ready us to be agents of your love and restoration to a hurting world. Amen.

-Pastor Katie Roelofs

God Sends Us

While many of us will not be leaving our homes during this week we are still called to be Christ's presence in our households, on zoom calls, and social media posts, thus continuing our worship of God in all we do and say.

Closing Verse

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory
and praise!

-Rev. 5:12

Blessing

Speak this blessing to those gathered with you. As you are comfortable use motions to point before, behind, beneath, above, and beside as this will help you memorize this blessing over the week and truly speak it over each other.

May God go
before you to guide you
behind you to protect you
beneath you to support you
above you to watch over you
beside you to be your friend.

Do not be afraid.

Go in peace.

Monday: Jesus Clears the Temple

God Calls us to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

Why do we light this candle?

To remember that Jesus is with us.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Have mercy on us and grant us your peace

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Praise and glory to you, O God.

-John 1:29

Gathering Song

You are encouraged to sing or listen to one or more of the following songs:

- *Oh, How He Loves You and Me* [lyric video](#) | [sheet music](#)
- *Jesus Loves Me* -LUYH 709 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Be Still and Know that I am God* LUYH 907 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Use the following prayer or your own, giving voice to the realities of the day within the greater context of the promise of the resurrection, and ask for the Holy Spirit to work through this time of worship.

God of all hope,
we gather today deeply aware
of the world's grief and pain --and our own.
Send your Holy Spirit here among us and
comfort us with the sure knowledge
that our Lenten journey will end in Easter joy.
Amen.

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God Speaks to Us and We Respond

Scripture Reading

Mark 11:15-19; Mark 12: 13-17

Reflecting on God's Word

- Questions to think about:

Jesus talks about money a lot.

1. What do we learn from Jesus in these 2 stories?
2. How can we use money wisely?
3. How can we give to God?

Jesus is going against the people in charge, and against practices that had been accepted by everyone.

4. Is it ever ok to go against what is “normal” or what we are told by those in authority?
- Find a way to give creatively today. Pray that God opens your hearts to see and fill a need and then give thanks for the opportunity to participate in God's Kingdom work.

Sung or Spoken Response

Use the words of one of the following songs (spoken or sung) as an offering prayer.

- *Take My Life and Let it Be* -LUYH 863 | [Traditional/Chris Tomlin](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Take O Take Me as I Am* -LUYH 741 | [YouTube](#)
- *Lord's Prayer* spoken or sing LUYH #912 | [YouTube](#)
- *My Life is An Offering* [performance video](#) | [sheet music](#)
- An option especially for those with young children:
 - God is So Good* -LUYH 777 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
 - There is a Redeemer* -LUYH 833 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer or use one of the following to express your gratitude to God.

1. *Breathe Restlessness into Me* a poem by Ted Loder
<https://www.stillharbor.org/daily-news-blog/2015/1/7/breathe-restlessness-into-me>
2. God you are the giver of all good things.
Thank you for your gifts.
Today we are especially grateful for...
(allow those present to express their own gratitude or continue reading)
our homes,
our family and friends,

food to eat and clothes to wear.

Help us to be grateful for what we have
and willing to share with those in need.
Give us eyes to see, ears to hear
and hands that are willing to serve. **Amen.**

-Rev. Joyce Borger

God Sends Us

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Closing Verse

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to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory
and praise!

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Blessing

Speak this blessing to those gathered with you. As you are comfortable use motions to point before, behind, beneath, above, and beside as this will help you memorize this blessing over the week and truly speak it over each other.

May God go
before you to guide you
behind you to protect you
beneath you to support you
above you to watch over you
beside you to be your friend.

Do not be afraid.

Go in peace.

Tuesday: Betrayal and Denial

God Calls us to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

Why do we light this candle?

To remember that Jesus is with us.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Have mercy on us and grant us your peace

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Praise and glory to you, O God.

-John 1:29

Gathering Song

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- *Jesus Loves Me* -LUYH 709 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Be Still and Know that I am God* LUYH 907 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

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God of all hope,
we gather today deeply aware
of the world's grief and pain --and our own.
Send your Holy Spirit here among us and
comfort us with the sure knowledge
that our Lenten journey will end in Easter joy.
Amen.

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God Speaks to Us and We Respond

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26:14-16; Matthew 26:31-35

Reflecting on God's Word

- Take coins, and place them one by one in metal cans or a glass. Listen to them drop and reflect on how:
 - Judas, because of his greed, informed the chief priest of Christ's location in exchange for coins of silver.
 - Peter, because of his fear, disowned Jesus three times after promising to never leave him.
- Ask yourself the following questions.
 - Knowing that Jesus walked this painful journey for ALL sinners, what are ways that you have betrayed or denied the Son of God?
 - How much is your integrity worth? Would you betray and deny your relationship with Jesus for things of this world? Jesus wants nothing more than a relationship with you!
- Spend time in a personal prayer of confession: write a prayer or create a piece of art that is a reflection of your thoughts.

Sung or Spoken Response

Use one or more of the following songs to reflect and meditate. Listen to the link provided, or read the text from a hymnal, or sing together as you are able.

- *Ah, Holy Jesus* -LUYH 172 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *All I Have is Christ* | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- An option especially for those with young children:
 - God is So Good* -LUYH 777 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
 - There is a Redeemer* -LUYH 833 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer or use the following one to express your need and gratitude for forgiveness.

Holy Spirit,
we ask for strength each day to live a godly life
and for your forgiveness when we fail.
Our sins are ever before us as we fail like Judas and Peter.
Lord, thank you for your endless mercy and grace.
Amen.

-Rev. Chris Walker

God Sends Us

While many of us will not be leaving our homes during this week we are still called to be Christ's presence in our households, on zoom calls, and social media posts, thus continuing our worship of God in all we do and say.

Closing Verse

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory
and praise!

-Rev. 5:12

Blessing

Speak this blessing to those gathered with you. As you are comfortable use motions to point before, behind, beneath, above, and beside as this will help you memorize this blessing over the week and truly speak it over each other.

May God go
before you to guide you
behind you to protect you
beneath you to support you
above you to watch over you
beside you to be your friend.

Do not be afraid.

Go in peace.

A Wednesday Maundy Thursday Service

These days of Holy Week, 2020, our lives aren't happening in the same order as we are accustomed to. Here's one more "out of order" thing--a Maundy Thursday liturgy planned for Wednesday.

In the actual sequence of events, Jesus washed the disciples' feet and they shared a meal on Thursday. It is called Maundy Thursday because of the Latin word, "maundatum" meaning "mandate" or command of Jesus when he says, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another even as I have loved you." John 13:34. In this week of daily worship, we chose to

move the foot washing and meal to Wednesday to allow more time to focus on the rest of Maundy Thursday's events tomorrow.

God Calls us to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

Why do we light this candle?

To remember that Jesus is with us.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Have mercy on us and grant us your peace

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Praise and glory to you, O God.

-John 1:29

Gathering Song

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- *Jesus Loves Me* -LUYH 709 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Be Still and Know that I am God* LUYH 907 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Use the following prayer or your own, giving voice to the realities of the day within the greater context of the promise of the resurrection, and ask for the Holy Spirit to work through this time of worship.

God of all hope,
we gather today deeply aware
of the world's grief and pain --and our own.
Send your Holy Spirit here among us and
comfort us with the sure knowledge
that our Lenten journey will end in Easter joy.
Amen.

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God Speaks to Us and We Respond

Scripture Reading

- "The Servant King" *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, Sally Lloyd-Jones, © 2007, Zonderkids, p.286-292

- John 13:1-17; Luke 22:14-20

Reflecting on God's Word

- Wash each other's feet! As awkward and uncomfortable as it might be, give this a shot! Fill a bowl with water, and grab a few clean towels. Take turns washing another person's feet by having them place their feet in the bowl. Rinse the person's feet with the water, using your hands or a cup, and then dry them off. When you're done, simply say "Jesus calls you clean."
- Reflect on the following:
 - Imagine how the disciples must have felt when Jesus got down on his knees and began removing their sandals. Their feet were dirty! Our feet are dirty! We want nobody, especially our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ cleaning our mess. But that is exactly what Jesus did. And that is exactly what Jesus has done for us.
 - Is it uncomfortable to put yourself in a position of washing someone else's feet or having your own feet washed this evening? Live in that discomfort for several moments.
- Share a meal/snack together and remember Jesus' sacrifice. Share Jesus' words "We eat this bread, remembering Christ's sacrifice, and we drink this cup to remember Christ's blood shed for you" as you pass food and drink around the table.

Sung or Spoken Response

Use one or more of the following songs to reflect and meditate. Listen to the link provided, or read the text from a hymnal, or sing together as you are able.

- *Meekness and Majesty* -LUYH 157 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Be Thou My Vision* -LUYH 859 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Beautiful Savior* -LUYH 17 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- An option especially for those with young children:
 - God is So Good* -LUYH 777 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
 - There is a Redeemer* -LUYH 833 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer or use the following one.

Loving Lord, you taught us compassion.
 You took a servant's role and knelt at the feet of your friends.
 You gave us a meal to remind us of your life-giving love.
 You called us to love one another too.
 Forgive us, Lord, for not practicing the compassion you modeled.
 Forgive us, Lord, for wanting to be served rather than to serve.

Forgive us, Lord, for not loving as you called us to love. **Amen.**

-The Worship Sourcebook, L.2.2.2 p. 603

God Sends Us

While many of us will not be leaving our homes during this week we are still called to be Christ's presence in our households, on zoom calls, and social media posts, thus continuing our worship of God in all we do and say.

Closing Verse

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory
and praise!

-Rev. 5:12

Blessing

Speak this blessing to those gathered with you. As you are comfortable use motions to point before, behind, beneath, above, and beside as this will help you memorize this blessing over the week and truly speak it over each other.

May God go
before you to guide you
behind you to protect you
beneath you to support you
above you to watch over you
beside you to be your friend.

Do not be afraid.

Go in peace.

Maundy Thursday: Agony and Arrest

God Calls us to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

Why do we light this candle?

To remember that Jesus is with us.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Have mercy on us and grant us your peace

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Praise and glory to you, O God.

-John 1:29

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- *Jesus Loves Me* -LUYH 709 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Be Still and Know that I am God* LUYH 907 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Use the following prayer or your own, giving voice to the realities of the day within the greater context of the promise of the resurrection, and ask for the Holy Spirit to work through this time of worship.

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we gather today deeply aware
of the world's grief and pain --and our own.
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Amen.

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God Speaks to Us and We Respond

Scripture Reading

- "A Dark Night in the Garden" *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, Sally Lloyd-Jones, © 2007, Zonderkids, p 294-301
- Matthew 26:36-56

Reflecting on God's Word

- If you knew that you were about to be arrested and tortured what do you think you would do? If you did pray, what do you think you would say?
- Read the words Jesus prayed before his arrest as recorded in John 17.
 - If you are able, consider kneeling as the words are read.

- You could have one person read the whole passage, or divide it between three readers:
 - Reader one: Jesus prays for himself (vs. 1-5)
 - Reader two: Jesus prays for his disciples (vs. 6-19)
 - Reader three: Jesus prays for all believers (vs. 20-26)

Sung or Spoken Response

Use one or more of the following songs to reflect and meditate. Listen to the link provided, or read the text from a hymnal, or sing together as you are able.

- *Go to Dark Gethsemane* -LUYH 161 | [instrumental hymn video](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Draw Near (Psalm 69)* [performance video](#) | [lyrics](#)
- *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* [lyric video](#) | [video](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- An option especially for those with young children:
 - God is So Good* -LUYH 777 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
 - There is a Redeemer* -LUYH 833 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer or use the following one.

Redeeming God,
 on the night of his betrayal and arrest,
 your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord stopped and prayed.
 Help us to follow Christ's example and turn to you
 when we find ourselves troubled and face difficulties of all kinds.

Redeeming God,
 on the night of his betrayal and arrest,
 your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, stopped and prayed
 not that his trials would be taken away,
 but that God might be glorified through him and people saved.
 We also pray that in whatever we face today you may be glorified.
 May we live our lives in such a way that people take notice
 and desire to know you as we do.

Redeeming God,
 on the night of his betrayal and arrest,
 your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord stopped and prayed
 for those who were closest to him.
 Today we offer these prayers for those we know and love:
(Add your own prayers.)

Redeeming God,
on the night of his betrayal and arrest,
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord stopped and prayed
for the unity of all believers.
Forgive us when we have not acted
as brothers and sisters, united in you.
Help us to express such deep love and care for each other
that the world around us notices.

Redeeming God,
on the night of his betrayal and arrest,
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
stopped and prayed.
Thank you for providing us with this time to stop and pray,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

-Rev. Joyce Borger

God Sends Us

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Closing Verse

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Blessing

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**May God go
before you to guide you
behind you to protect you**

**beneath you to support you
above you to watch over you
beside you to be your friend.**

Do not be afraid.

Go in peace.

Good Friday: The Crucifixion

In some communities, including the Christian Reformed Church, leaders are calling for a day of prayer and fasting on Good Friday, April 10, 2020. Other resources will be made available, or you may choose to continue with this daily liturgy in addition to other prayers and fasting.

Regardless of whether or not you typically have Good Friday off from work and school, or if you normally would attend a worship service, this year is different. Many of us find ourselves under a “stay in place” order. Why not take this opportunity to spend this day, from its beginning to its end, reflecting on Christ’s crucifixion.

1. Choose four different times to gather: we suggest first thing in the morning, midday, evening, and before the first person goes to bed.
2. At one of those times you will use the same pattern of worship you’ve used all week which you will find below.
3. For the other three devotional times we suggest the following:
 - a. Read the passage
 - i. 1 Peter 2:21-21
 - ii. Psalm 22 (entire Psalm or verses 1-11)
 - iii. Philippians 2:1-11
 - b. Respond to the reading of scripture by declaring to each other:

For you Jesus Christ came into the world:

For you he lived and showed God’s love;

**For you he suffered the darkness of Calvary
and cried at the last, “It is finished”;**

For you he triumphed over death and rose in newness of life;

For you he ascended to reign at God’s right hand.

All this, he did for you, before you knew anything of it.

And so the Word of Scripture is fulfilled:

“We love because God loved us first.”

-At Your Baptism, Carrie Steenwyk, John Witvliet, © 2011, Eerdmans

Publishing, adapted from Baptismal Liturgy of the French Reformed Church

- c. Dwell with the scripture passage: Encourage each person present to spend time dwelling with the scripture passage in a way that is age appropriate and fits with their personality (i.e. silence, writing, visual arts, movement).
4. Consider allowing Friday to be a “dark day.” Once the sun sets, function only by candlelight and allow as much darkness as possible as you reflect on the significance of the day.

God Calls us to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

Why do we light this candle?

To remember that Jesus is with us.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Have mercy on us and grant us your peace

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Praise and glory to you, O God.

-John 1:29

Gathering Song

You are encouraged to sing or listen to one or more of the following songs:

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- *Jesus Loves Me* -LUYH 709 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Be Still and Know that I am God* LUYH 907 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Use the following prayer or your own, giving voice to the realities of the day within the greater context of the promise of the resurrection, and ask for the Holy Spirit to work through this time of worship.

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comfort us with the sure knowledge
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Amen.

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God Speaks to Us and We Respond

Scripture Reading

- “The Sun Stops Shining” *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, Sally Lloyd-Jones, © 2007, Zonderkids, p. 302-308
- John 19:1-42

Reflecting on God’s Word

If you have them in your house, pour a cup of vinegar, and a cup of sweet grape juice. As a symbol of being with Jesus in his suffering, lean in and smell the vinegar. Just the smell of such bitterness is enough to burn your nose and water your eyes. Sip or smell the juice and know that you are no longer God’s enemy. Jesus Christ has tasted the cup of death so that you don’t have to. Instead, you have the promise of sweet life with Christ for now and eternity.

Sung or Spoken Response

Use one or more of the following songs to reflect and meditate. Listen to the link provided, or read the text from a hymnal, or sing together as you are able.

- *How Deep the Father’s Love for Us* [lyric video](#)
- *Oh, to See the Dawn/Power of the Cross* -LUYH 177 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* -LUYH 175 | [lyric video](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* -LUYH168 | [lyric video](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- An option especially for those with young children:
 - God is So Good* -LUYH 777 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
 - There is a Redeemer* -LUYH 833 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer or use the following one.

*Lord, God on this Good Friday we say:
Hallelujah to the Lamb of God
Who was sacrificed;
Who was Scapegoat,
Who willingly went to death,
Who gave himself over to principalities and powers
So that they could be undone.
Everything we thought we knew about justice,
Everything we thought we knew about God
All our expectations of power and force
Our preconceived notions of victory*

Were overturned in Christ
The old ideas are shadows.
Christ, who went to death
To prove life;
Who went to defeat
To prove victory;
Who went to darkness
To prove light.
Who went to pain
To prove joy.
We wait with you, Son of God, in mourning and quiet,
In the darkness of Good Friday,
Until the day dawns
And the Morning Star surprises our hearts.

Amen.

“[Good Friday: Litany for Scapegoats and Surprises](#),” Rev. Fran Pratt ©2019 by Fran Pratt. All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission. Rev. Pratt’s catalog of liturgical work can be found at [her website](#) and [on Patreon](#). Her [book of liturgy is available via Amazon](#).)

God Sends Us

While many of us will not be leaving our homes during this week we are still called to be Christ’s presence in our households, on zoom calls, and social media posts, thus continuing our worship of God in all we do and say.

Closing Verse

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory
and praise!

-Rev. 5:12

Blessing

Speak this blessing to those gathered with you. As you are comfortable use motions to point before, behind, beneath, above, and beside as this will help you memorize this blessing over the week and truly speak it over each other.

**May God go
before you to guide you
behind you to protect you
beneath you to support you**

**above you to watch over you
beside you to be your friend.**

**Do not be afraid.
Go in peace.**

Holy Saturday: Burial

God Calls us to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

Why do we light this candle?

To remember that Jesus is with us.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Have mercy on us and grant us your peace

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Praise and glory to you, O God.

-John 1:29

Gathering Song

You are encouraged to sing or listen to one or more of the following songs:

- *Oh, How He Loves You and Me* [lyric video](#) | [sheet music](#)
- *Jesus Loves Me* -LUYH 709 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Be Still and Know that I am God* LUYH 907 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Use the following prayer or your own, giving voice to the realities of the day within the greater context of the promise of the resurrection, and ask for the Holy Spirit to work through this time of worship.

God of all hope,
we gather today deeply aware
of the world's grief and pain --and our own.
Send your Holy Spirit here among us and
comfort us with the sure knowledge
that our Lenten journey will end in Easter joy.
Amen.

-adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*, J.1.4.9; used with permission

God Speaks to Us and We Respond

Scripture Reading

Matthew 27:57-66

Reflecting on God's Word

Choose one or more of the following ways to engage with the scripture passage:

- Gather rocks from outside and place them on your table as a symbol of the sealed tomb. As you pass these rocks and see them, remember the significance of why they are there.
- Build a fort or some sort of cave that keeps the light out. Sit inside for five minutes, thinking about Jesus' death and burial. Say a prayer of thanks that the darkness will not last forever.
- Reflect on the poem "[Easter Saturday](https://theartisticimpulse.blogspot.com/2011/04/poem-for-holy-saturday.html?m=0)" by Elizabeth Rooney
(<https://theartisticimpulse.blogspot.com/2011/04/poem-for-holy-saturday.html?m=0>)

Sung or Spoken Response

Use one or more of the following songs to reflect and meditate. Listen to the link provided, or read the text from a hymnal, or sing together as you are able.

- *Wait for the Lord* -LUYH 480 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Oh, to See the Dawn/Power of the Cross* -LUYH 177 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Were You There* -LUYH 166 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Abide With Me* -LUYH 466 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- An option especially for those with young children:
God is So Good -LUYH 777 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
There is a Redeemer -LUYH 833 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer or use the following one.

O Lord Jesus Christ, suffering Son of God,
our minds do not grasp the length and breadth,
the height and depth of your love for us sinners,
poured out in your precious blood.
Our minds do not grasp your unfathomable love,
but our hearts hold it; our hearts do hold it.
Amen.

-The Worship Sourcebook, M.9.1.7, p. 628

God Sends Us

While many of us will not be leaving our homes during this week we are still called to be Christ's presence in our households, on zoom calls, and social media posts, thus continuing our worship of God in all we do and say.

Closing Verse

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory
and praise!

-Rev. 5:12

Blessing

Speak this blessing to those gathered with you. As you are comfortable use motions to point before, behind, beneath, above, and beside as this will help you memorize this blessing over the week and truly speak it over each other.

May God go
before you to guide you
behind you to protect you
beneath you to support you
above you to watch over you
beside you to be your friend.

Do not be afraid.

Go in peace.

Easter Sunday

This service utilizes the same format but a few different responses. If you are able, go outside to greet the dawn on this Resurrection Day, perhaps just being still and watching the light grow, or engaging in the following worship liturgy to start the day.

Many churches, likely including your own, will be streaming Easter services this day. Join with others in worshipping together online.

God Calls us to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

Why do we light this candle?

To remember that Jesus is with us.

Repeat the following a few times with growing excitement till all loudly proclaim:

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed!

Gathering Song

You are encouraged to sing or listen to one or more of the following songs:

- *Oh, How He Loves You and Me* [lyric video](#) | [sheet music](#)
- *Jesus Loves Me* -LUYH 709 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Be Still and Know that I am God* LUYH 907 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Use the following prayer or your own, giving voice to the realities of the day within the greater context of the promise of the resurrection, and ask for the Holy Spirit to work through this time of worship.

Risen Christ,
the disciples were filled with fear and uncertainty
but you revealed yourself as the conqueror of death.
On this Easter day as we gather
some grieving, some fearful, some unsure of the future,
reveal yourself and fill us with hope.
Amen.

-Rev. Joyce Borger

God Speaks to Us and We Respond

Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Reflecting on God's Word

- The angel's first words were "Do not be afraid." How are these words especially timely on Easter this year? Allow sacred space for all to name fears, being alert to the fears of children and young adults. Or in lieu of speaking, allow time to journal or draw. While honoring the human fears that this pandemic has brought, recall that the promise of God is to be with us. Learn the short song, "Don't Be Afraid" LUYH 429.

- Read Romans 6:4, then declare the following words to each other. If possible, have each person read one line and all read the final two lines.

**For you Jesus Christ came into the world:
 For you he lived and showed God’s love;
 For you he suffered the darkness of Calvary
 and cried at the last, “It is finished’;
 For you he triumphed over death and rose in newness of life;
 For you he ascended to reign at God’s right hand.
 All this, he did for you, before you knew anything of it.
 And so the Word of Scripture is fulfilled:
 “We love because God loved us first.”**

-At Your Baptism, Carrie Steenwyk, John Witvliet, © 2011, Eerdmans Publishing, adapted from Baptismal Liturgy of the French Reformed Church

- Use chalk to draw on your sidewalk--a message of hope, or signs of life, or a large colorful cross using the easy method found [here](#).. You could write “For _____ Jesus rose again!” Fill in a few names and leave chalk for neighbors to write their names.

Sung or Spoken Response

Sing or play these and other resurrection songs throughout the day.

- *In Christ Alone* -LUYH 770 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)
- *Oh, to See the Dawn/Power of the Cross* -LUYH 177 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* -LUYH 182 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Low in the Grave He Lay* -LUYH 186 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- Options especially for those with young children:
 - God is So Good* -LUYH 777 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
 - There is a Redeemer* -LUYH 833 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer focusing on hope and gratitude, or use the following one.

Gracious God, you loved the world so much that you sent your only son to save the world through him. We worship you and thank you for the gift of life now and the promise of new and everlasting life through your mercy.

Living Christ, by your death and resurrection you have restored us to life and replaced our fear with hope. We love you and follow you into the world as your disciples, eager to serve and love as you taught us.

Enlivening Spirit, you comfort and strengthen us each day. Guide us in our lives, in what we do and say, in what we think and imagine, in how we interact at home, online, and as

we again go out into the world at work, school, play, and everyday interactions. May we outwardly live as “resurrection people” in this world. Through Christ our Lord who lives in us, AMEN.

-Rev. Joy Engelsman

Gospel Declaration

This is the good news: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

God Sends Us

While many of us will not be leaving our homes during this week, we are still called to be Christ’s presence in our households, on zoom calls, and social media posts, thus continuing our worship of God in all we do and say.

Closing Verse

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
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Blessing

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before you to guide you
behind you to protect you
beneath you to support you
above you to watch over you
beside you to be your friend.

Do not be afraid.

Go in peace.

Living out our Resurrection Life

In the coming weeks as we may still be at home for work and school, seek out ways to grow in faith, hope and love.

- Continue to reach out to friends and neighbors in creative and loving ways. Send snail mail cards, use social media,
- Replace some of your media time with songs and messages of hope, including many above. Share with friends on social media.
- Consider what brings you comfort in life and in death along with the people in [this video](#). Learn these words of promise and comfort from the Heidelberg Catechism by memory. Memorize one new line each day and in 5 days you will have the whole thing memorized. (We've separated the lines out for you).

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;

in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.