

Daily Worship for Holy Week and Easter

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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:

- *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

- “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.