

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 worship: we suggest first thing in the morning, midday, evening, and before you go 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:

For me Jesus Christ came into the world:

For me he lived and showed God’s love;

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

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

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

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

And so the Word of Scripture is fulfilled:

“We love because God loved us first.”

*-Adapted from *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 in silence or by writing, visual arts, song or 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 You to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

I light this candle to remember that Jesus is with me.

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

As a prayer: Have mercy on me and grant me your peace.

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

As a prayer: Praise and glory to you, O God.

-John 1:29

Gathering Song

Choose a favorite song that draws you into worship.

- *Holy, Holy, Holy* LUYH 538 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *Come, Now Is the Time to Worship* LUYH 526 | [YouTube with Lyrics](#)
- *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,
I worship you today deeply aware
of the world's grief and pain --and my own.
Send your Holy Spirit here and
comfort me with the sure knowledge
that my Lenten journey will end in Easter joy.
Amen.

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

God Speaks and You 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 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](#)

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

While you may not be leaving your home during this week, you are still called to be Christ’s presence in your relationships, on zoom calls, and social media posts, thus continuing your worship of God in all you do and say. Read this verse of praise aloud.

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

Hear these words of blessing spoken to you from God. 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.

**I, your God will 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 forth in peace.**