

Daily Worship for Holy Week and Easter

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

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

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

- “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

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.