

Daily Worship for Holy Week and Easter, 2020

(Liturgies for Individuals)

Created by Worship Ministries Endorsed Coaches, Joy Engelsman, Katie Roelofs, Ruth Ann Schuringa, 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.

This version has been prepared for individuals who are sequestered alone. The personal language used here is intended for individual devotions. You could also connect with a few friends through technology and use the liturgies below together or download the Small Group version that has been edited for communal language. Regardless of how you engage in these unique days, know that you are not alone.

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. We encourage you to repeat the same songs and prayers each day. The simplicity of familiar patterns is helpful 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 yourself. Take time for reflection, questions, creativity. Above all, trust that the Spirit of God is with you.

Grace and Peace.

Sunday: Palm/Passion Sunday

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

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

Reflecting on God's Word

- Sit on your coat as you read 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. Read it aloud to yourself and 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:
Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
- Other options especially if you are single-parenting a young child:
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 friends, extended 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 me when I do the same.
I approach your throne of grace with boldness.
May I receive mercy and grace in my 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 I journey to the cross this week, recounting and remembering your sacrifice of love for me, give me a heart that is open to receive and hands that are ready to serve. I acknowledge that this Holy Week is vastly different from others because of the current pandemic. Even while I am apart from others, draw me together in unity with Christ and all your children to once again travel the road to Calvary. And as I do so, I pray that you would again bring hope and healing to this world that is so desperately in need of your grace. Prepare my heart, quiet my soul and make me ready to be an agent of your love and restoration to a hurting world. Amen.

-Pastor Katie Roelofs

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.

Monday: Jesus Clears the Temple

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.

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God Speaks and You 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 I learn from Jesus in these 2 stories?
2. How can I use money wisely?
3. How can I 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 I am told by those in authority?
- Find a way to give creatively today. Pray that God opens your heart 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](#)

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 I am especially grateful for...
(imagine and list your own reasons for gratitude including)

*my home,
my family and friends,
food to eat and clothes to wear.*

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

-Rev. Joyce Borger

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.**

Tuesday: Betrayal and Denial

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.

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God Speaks and You 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 as you are able.

- *Ah, Holy Jesus* -LUYH 172 | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)
- *All I Have is Christ* | [YouTube](#) | [Music and Lyrics](#)

Prayer

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

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

-Rev. Chris Walker

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.**

A Wednesday Maundy Thursday Service

These days of Holy Week, 2020, our lives aren't happening in the same order as any of us 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 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.

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God Speaks to Us and We Respond

Scripture Reading

- John 13:1-17; Luke 22:14-20
- Since this story is very familiar, you might find it refreshing to read it from a Children's Bible such as "The Servant King" *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, Sally Lloyd-Jones, © 2007, Zonderkids, p.286-292.

Reflecting on God's Word

- In these days of social distancing, gathering to wash one another's feet isn't allowed. Fill a bowl with water, and grab a few clean towels. Pause to pray, thanking Jesus for this lesson, acknowledging that doing this action alone feels strange because the point was to receive the love and service from Christ. Imagine Christ himself rinsing your feet with water and drying them off. When you're done, simply say "Jesus calls me 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 typically don't want anyone, 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 you.
 - Imagine if you were with a group of others for this activity? Which do you think would be more uncomfortable: to wash someone else's feet or have your own feet washed by another? Live in that discomfort for several moments.
- Make a small snack or meal to commemorate the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. Speak Jesus' words "I eat this bread, remembering Christ's sacrifice, and I drink this cup to remember Christ's blood shed for me," as you meditate and reflect on his love for you.

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](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer or use the following one.

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

-Adapted from The Worship Sourcebook, L.2.2.2 p. 603

God Sends Us

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.**

Maundy Thursday: Agony and Arrest

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.

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God Speaks and You 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 you read this passage.

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.

- *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](#)

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 me to follow Christ's example and turn to you
when I find myself troubled and face difficulties of all kinds.

Redeeming God,
on the night of his betrayal and arrest,
your Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord, stopped and prayed
not that his trials would be taken away,
but that God might be glorified through him and people saved.
I also pray that in whatever I face today you may be glorified.
May I live my life in such a way that people take notice
and desire to know you as I 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 I offer these prayers for those I 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 me when I have not acted
as part of the family of God, united in you.
Help me to express such deep love and care for others
that the world around me notices.

Redeeming God,
on the night of his betrayal and arrest,
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
stopped and prayed.

Thank you for providing me with this time to stop and pray,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

-Rev. Joyce Borger

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

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**I, your God will go
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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.**

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.

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- *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
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Send your Holy Spirit here and
comfort me with the sure knowledge
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Amen.

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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.**

Holy Saturday: Burial

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

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 hold 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. Or simply sit in darkness 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 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](#)

Prayer

Offer your own prayer or use the following one.

O Lord Jesus Christ, suffering Son of God,
my mind does not grasp the length and breadth,
the height and depth of your love for sinners,
that has been poured out in your precious blood.
My mind does not grasp your unfathomable love,
but my heart holds it; my heart does hold it.

Amen.

*-Adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*, M.9.1.7, p. 628*

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.**

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 You to Worship

Opening Words

As you light a candle:

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

Repeat the following a few times with growing excitement:

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed!

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.

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 and You 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 to name your fears aloud or write them in a 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 aloud.
**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

- 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](#)

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. I 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 me to life and replaced my fear with hope. I love you and follow you into the world as your disciple, eager to serve and love as you taught me.

Enlivening Spirit, you comfort and strengthen me each day. Guide me in my life, in what I do and say, in what I think and imagine, in how I interact with others and as I anticipate going back into the world at work, school, play, and everyday interactions. May I outwardly live as one of your “resurrection people” in this world. Through Christ my Lord who lives in me, AMEN.

-Rev. Joy Engelsman

Gospel Declaration

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

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

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Go forth in peace.**

Living out our Resurrection Life

In the coming weeks as you 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.