

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.

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

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

**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.**