

Prayer Booklet

Holy Week



PRAYING THROUGH *Holy Week*

This booklet focuses on the events of Holy Week to immerse us in the depth of sacrifice, mercy and grace revealed in Christ's final earthly steps. Let us walk together with Christ during this week through these Scriptures and prayers.

"The Word of Scripture should never stop sounding in your ears and working in you all day long, just like the words of someone you love.

And just as you do not analyze the words of someone you love, but accept them as they are said to you, accept the Word of Scripture and ponder it in your heart as Mary did. That is all. . . Do not ask 'How shall I pass this on?' but 'What does it say to me?' Then ponder this word long in your heart until it has gone right into you and taken possession of you."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together



Palm Sunday

Read Luke 19:28-48

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 30 "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

34 They replied, "The Lord needs it."

35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side.

44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

45 When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. 46 "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

47 Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. 48 Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

Triumph Through Humility

Spend a few moments in silence quieting your soul
to receive from the Lord.

Ask God to help you find your place in the biblical story through a
word or phrase that “jumps out at you.”

Prayer:

Lord, help me to have a colt rider's point-of-view, lowly and at eye
level.

I want to see as you see -

people swept up in the moment,
and still love them when the moment's over;
those who try to keep the lid on the status quo
and pray them through their stagnancy;
those who prefer calculated power
over unbridled praise;
those who adulterate worship to accommodate their desires
instead of uninhibited adoration.

If I'm totally honest it will be like looking in a mirror.

Thank you for humbling yourself as you rode into Jerusalem.

Help me to go through this day at a colt rider's viewpoint,
looking at everyone I encounter with your eyes of compassion.

May my day's journey bring you glory.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Monday

Read John 12:20-36

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages. " 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

7 "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

9 Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, 11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

Extravagant Devotion

Spend a few moments in silence quieting your soul
to receive from the Lord.

Ask God to help you find your place in the biblical story through a
word or phrase that “jumps out at you.”

Prayer:

I want to see you, only you,
and bathe you with my praises.

May I reverence you with sweet abandon;
willing to be a broken vessel pouring out a life of selfless service.

You relish my extravagant devotion and I am safe in this place of worship.
Nothing else matters and I can rest in our exchange
Everything else fades:

counting the cost,
what others think,
being viewed as not “all put together.”

May my worship be a sweet-smelling offering to your nostrils, as I rise
above the trepidation of public opinion and live my passion for you
out loud.

I let down all pretense and worship you today.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Tuesday

Read John 12:20-36

20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

30 Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. 31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

34 The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

35 Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. 36 Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

Don't Waste Your Pain

Spend a few moments in silence quieting your soul
to receive from the Lord.

Ask God to help you find your place in the biblical story through a
word or phrase that "jumps out at you."

Prayer:

Lord, I am addicted to comfort.

I find your reference to wheat falling and dying a little unnerving.

Does it have to play out that way?

Can't I be an armchair disciple?

Don't answer that. . . I know your response:

".. .it was for this very reason I came to this hour."

In your economy lifting up takes impalement

of a life I work so hard to preserve.

I've stumbled in darkness and semi-darkness long enough

Do whatever it takes to make me a child of Light.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



Wednesday

John 13:21-32

21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."

22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.

23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.

24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."

25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

26 Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." 28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. 30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

31 When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

On a Need-to-Know Basis

Spend a few moments in silence quieting your soul
to receive from the Lord.

Ask God to help you find your place in the biblical story through a
word or phrase that “jumps out at you.”

Prayer:

Lord, you know me inside and out.

I am an open book to you.

You reveal to me what is in my best interest.

Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable.

Then why am I often consumed
with other people's business?

Free me from the need to know.

Information is power.

The kind of information dictates the kind of power.

Real power comes from knowing you

not just being informed about you, but knowing you.

Anything else that takes precedence over knowing you
is not your will for my life.

And so, Lord, let me lean against your chest today,

not because I am seeking information,

but because I want to hear the beating of your heart.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Thursday

John 13:1-17

1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Touch Me Again, Lord

Spend a few moments in silence quieting your soul
to receive from the Lord.

Ask God to help you find your place in the biblical story through a
word or phrase that “jumps out at you.”

Prayer:

I yearn for your touch. . .
but my feet?

Taking off my shoes and exposing my feet
places me in a vulnerable position.

They're dirty, unattractive, and it's hard to run in bare feet!

But with pitcher in hand you beckon.

Beckon in a way that makes me yearn for your touch –
bare feet and all.

Whatever it takes today for me to feel your
healing, cleansing, revealing touch

I say, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

Teacher and Lord,

let me turn from this moment of vulnerability cleansed
to wash the feet of the one you lead me to today.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Good Friday

John 18:1-19

1 When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)

6 When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." 9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

11 Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

12 Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him 13 and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. 14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

15 Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, 16 but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in. 17 "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not."

18 It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

Embrace the Light

Spend a few moments in silence quieting your soul
to receive from the Lord.

Ask God to help you find your place in the biblical story through a
word or phrase that “jumps out at you.”

You created the twenty-four hour rhythm of life.

Day and night; light and darkness.

I want to embrace your light.

Not the light from worldly torches or lanterns,

seeking its own plan of manipulation in the shadows,

but the light that comes from your countenance –

brighter than any new morning.

I will cling to the light of your word

which is continuously being fulfilled,

“I have not lost one of those you gave me.”

As a little child clings to her mother’s skirt

in the midst of strangers

so I cling to the light of your word.

In clinging I find I am more precious to you than a lost coin,
a lost lamb, a lost child. I will not let anything keep us apart.

You have done your part to illuminate the depth this union.

Today may I do my part to keep the candle burning brightly

and to bring light into my darkened part of the world.

In Jesus name,

Amen.



Holy Saturday

Matthew 27:57-66

57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Preparation Day

Spend a few moments in silence quieting your soul
to receive from the Lord.

Ask God to help you find your place in the biblical story through a
word or phrase that “jumps out at you.”

Prayer:

Lord, how will I prepare for your resurrection?

Believing what I see and laying to rest any possibility of hope
or seeing what I believe; the power of God raising the lifeless in me?

In this day of preparation I recite the prophetic words:

“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

I will recite them until the morning hours reveal

a rolled back stone,

an empty tomb,

the voice speaking, “Do not be afraid,”

hope forever satisfied.

This day I prepare my body to be your sanctuary for glorious
resurrection worship.

With confidence I wait for the light of morning in my heart to
proclaim, “. . . thanks be to God!

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



Victory Sunday

My Personal Prayer



The Salvation Army
USA Eastern Territory