

GOOD FRIDAY – PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Family Prayers and Reflection

Introduction

As we celebrate the Passion of Jesus Christ and hear John's Gospel account of his suffering and death, we are reminded of the injustices that pervade our world. Often times these systems of oppression, hate, and fear are so commonplace in our world that perhaps we do not even notice them.

Good Friday serves as a good reminder of this reality. It is easy to become discouraged, to see the work that has to be done and look away. Today we pray that we may have the conscience to see and the courage to act, remembering that death never wins. Life and love always prevail in Christ.

The traditional Good Friday liturgy contains three unique components: the readings of the Word of God, especially of John's Passion, the praying of The Solemn Intercessions, and the Adoration of the Holy Cross. Each of these helps us enter more fully into our relationship with Christ and recommits us to pray and work for the good of the church and world.

Ritual at Home

To Prepare:

Prepare the table, covered with white cloth, which will become a small altar for this celebration. On the table place Cross, (If no cross- picture showing the cross) 2 lighted candles, the Bible. This will be the centre of family celebration.

The family choose who will be the leaders of celebration, who will read the Passion of Jesus according to John (Jn 18:1-19:42) – you need 3 or 4 people to read the passion of Jesus: 1st person – Jesus, 2nd - Narrator, 3rd – 1 person speaking, 4th – many people speaking. (number 3 & 4 can be combined). The solemn intercessions are done by 2 people – the 1st – present the intention and the 2nd – pray the prayer after short reflective silence).

You need to choose who will be holding the cross for adoration, and the way of doing it.

The Celebration of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ starts here:

When all gathered around the table/family altar, the Presider prays the following prayer

Opening Prayer:

Lord of Glory,

we proclaim your death and look ever forward to your Resurrection.

As we contemplate your Cross, the tree on which you hung so that we may have life,

may we be ever aware of the life that springs from death,

the light that rises from darkness, and the hope that banishes fear.

Draw us close to you, so that we may know the glory your Cross points to.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Now, those chosen to read the Passion of Jesus, come forward to Proclaim it. All may sit down.

During the reading of the Passion, after the words “It is finished, and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit” – all kneel and pause for a moment in prayer.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John : John 18:1–19:42

The text of the passion of Jesus in English, can be found in the internet: link:

<http://www.ibreviary.com/m/pregchiere.php?tipo=Rito&id=541>

After the reading of the Passion of Jesus, all sit for the moment and reflect, maybe someone has to share some words that touched him/her.

THE SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

Presider: I. For Holy Church

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquility and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.

Another person:

Almighty ever-living God,
who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations, watch over the works of your mercy,
that your Church, spread throughout all the world, may persevere with steadfast faith in
confessing your name.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Presider: II. For the Pope

Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope Francis, that our God and Lord, who chose him for the Order of Bishops, may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord's holy Church, to govern the holy People of God.

Another person:

Almighty ever-living God, by whose decree all things are founded, look with favor on our prayers and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us, that, under him, the Christian people, governed by you their maker, may grow in merit by reason of their faith.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Presider: III. For all orders and degrees of the faithful

Let us pray also for our Bishop Stanley Dziuba, for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church and for the whole of the faithful people.



Another person:

Almighty ever-living God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear our humble
prayer for your ministers, that, by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Presider: IV. For catechumens

Let us pray also for (our) catechumens,
that our God and Lord may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts and unlock the gates of
his mercy, that, having received forgiveness of all their sins through the waters of rebirth,
they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Another Person:

Almighty ever-living God,
who make your Church ever fruitful with new offspring, increase the faith and understanding
of (our) catechumens, that, reborn in the font of Baptism, they may be added to the number of
your adopted children. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Presider: V. For the unity of Christians

Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ,
that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the truth, to gather them together and
keep them in his one Church.

Another person:

Almighty ever-living God,
who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly on the
flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by
integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Presider: VI. For the Jewish people

Let us pray also for the Jewish people,
to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name
and in faithfulness to his covenant.

Another Person:

Almighty ever-living God,
who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants, hear graciously the prayers
of your Church, that the people you first made your own may attain the fullness of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Presider: VII. For those who do not believe in Christ

Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ,
that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way of salvation.

Another person:

Almighty ever-living God,
grant to those who do not confess Christ that, by walking before you with a sincere heart,
they may find the truth and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love and striving to
understand more fully the mystery of your life, may be made more perfect witnesses to your
love in the world. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Presider: VIII. For those who do not believe in God

Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God,
that, following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself.

Another person:

Almighty ever-living God,
who created all people to seek you always by desiring you and, by finding you, come to rest,
grant, we pray, that, despite every harmful obstacle, all may recognize the signs of your
fatherly love and the witness of the good works done by those who believe in you,
and so in gladness confess you, the one true God and Father of our human race.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Presider: IX. For those in public office

Let us pray also for those in public office,
that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true
peace and freedom of all.

Another Person:

Almighty ever-living God,
in whose hand lies every human heart and the rights of peoples, look with favor, we pray,
on those who govern with authority over us, that throughout the whole world, the prosperity of
peoples, the assurance of peace, and freedom of religion may through your gift be made
secure. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Presider: IX b. For the afflicted in time of pandemic

Let us pray also for all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God
the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to
families and salvation to all the victims who have died.

Another person:

Almighty ever-living God,
only support of our human weakness, look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of
your children who suffer because of this pandemic; relieve the pain of the sick, give strength
to those who care for them, welcome into your peace those who have died and, throughout
this time of tribulation, grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love.

Through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

Presider: X. For those in tribulation

Let us pray, dearly beloved,
to God the Father almighty, that he may cleanse the world of all errors,
banish disease, drive out hunger, unlock prisons, loosen fetters, granting to travelers safety,
to pilgrims return, health to the sick, and salvation to the dying.

Another person

Almighty ever-living God,
comfort of mourners, strength of all who toil, may the prayers of those who cry out in any
tribulation come before you, that all may rejoice, because in their hour of need
your mercy was at hand. Through Christ our Lord.

R.Amen.

THE ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

The adoration of the cross can be done in different ways, modeling on the Church's celebration.

The Presider can hold high the cross, while all the members make personal prayer and reflection, as well as performing individual acts of reverence. You may wish to touch the cross, or show another suitable sign, such as genuflection...

The Presider says/sings:

Behold the wood of the Cross on which hung the salvation of the world.

All: Come, let us adore.

Can be repeated 3 times.

At the closing of the adoration and reflection, the family can pray the following Litany for Forgiveness:

Presider or another person prays:

For the times we have not loved as we are called to love . . .

For the times we have cultivated doubt instead of hope . . .

For the times that selfishness, greed, and lust influence our decisions . . .

For the times we nurture isolation instead of community . . .

For the times we hear the needs of others but refuse to act . . .

Father, forgive.

Father, forgive.

Father, forgive.

Father, forgive.

Father, forgive.



For the times we pass judgment on ourselves and those whom we encounter .	Father, forgive.
For the times we create divisions . . .	Father, forgive.
For the times we neglect care for our common home . . .	Father, forgive.
For the times we are not good stewards of the gifts you give us . . .	Father, forgive.
Confident that Jesus Christ hears our prayer, let us offer our petitions in silence of our hearts (<i>each prays in silence</i>)	Father, forgive.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathering these prayers together,
as well as those we hold in the silence of our hearts,
we pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father . . .

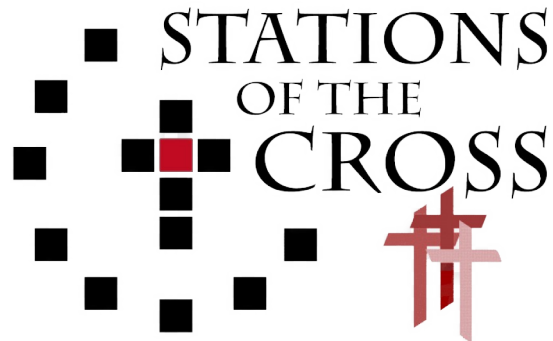
Closing Prayer:

Presider:

Loving God,
We praise you in a special way today as we celebrate Good Friday.
Be with us as we continue our journey through Holy Week,
that we may more closely align our lives with yours,
knowing that death never wins,
and that life and love always prevail.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Let's Praise the Lord
Now, and for ever.

**The cross is placed at the table with 2 lighted candles.
All share the sign of peace.....**



The Family can also pray the Stations of the Cross on another time during Good Friday.