

WORSHIP AT HOME FOR GOOD FRIDAY 2020

I miss you all very much! We miss one another. Since we cannot be together, I invite you to try this at-home experience in a quiet place so that you may still have a way of remembering this Holy Day, Good Friday. Get your Bibles ready so that you are able to look up our scriptures for today.

In Christ, Pastor Althea

Gather yourself quietly in a place where you can feel God's presence.

Take a few slow deep breaths in and out.

Prepare yourself for worship with our Lord.

GATHERING *(Speak aloud or in your heart)*

Holy Spirit, I invite you to be with me now.

Christ, I invite you to be by my side.

God, I love you as you love me just the way I am, and I trust in your promises.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season, we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil— all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were called at our baptism. It is the struggle which continues on in our society and all around us today.

God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. God's promises are true even in the midst of our struggles. God's presence remains with us even when we cannot always feel it, even when it's hard for us to trust in God. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Take a moment of quietness to breathe again and reflect.

Then say aloud or quietly to yourself:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Some sins of which we are aware and some which are unknown. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Hear now these words of Good News:

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. *(You may cross yourself over your chest or on your forehead.)* May Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING - Isaiah 52:13--53:12

PSALM - Psalm 22

SECOND READING - Hebrews 10:16-25

HOLY GOSPEL - John 18:1--19:42

End with: Praise to you, O Christ.

Take a few moments to meditate on these readings. Pray about what stands out to you. Take time to remember our Lord's sacrifice on this holy day.

Silent prayer.

When you are ready, end with The Lord's Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world.

Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR *(Normally this is where we would strip the altar. Read Psalm 88 to yourself and then depart from your worship space.)*

As **Psalm 88** is read, the altar is stripped, to signify the arrest, trial, and humiliation of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

All leave in silence.