

AT HOME PREPARATION FOR EASTER:

SUPPLIES:

3 Candles, a cross (any cross will do), something to light the candles, this liturgy and a space in a public room of the house.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Darkness may be the best time for this devotion, either early morning or after sunset. Do not however let the lack of darkness stop you from doing it. Anytime will do. Thursday: light all three Candles, do the opening prayer, Scripture reading, intercessions, Lord's Prayer and closing blessing. After the Scripture reading, extinguish one candle each night. After the blessing, extinguish all the Candles and leave the space in silence.

Continue in the same pattern till all candles are extinguished on Holy Saturday.

(hint: if you have little ones in the house, let them help light candles and do the **bold** parts of the intercessions. Also, know they may not be perfectly pious during this time. Mine aren't! But also know this is not done in vain. You're watering the seeds of faith that the Lord planted in them.)

-note on Friday—If your health allows, try to Fast until 3 pm. Do water and coffee only or liquids only. During this fast pray for God's help in our current crisis. 3 pm is the hour the Scriptures tell us Jesus ended his suffering on the cross. As such, by fasting you can join—in a very small way—into Jesus's suffering. At 3 pm, read **Luke 23:44-47 and Galatians 2:20**. Offer a prayer of Thanksgiving for Christ's sacrifice and end your fast with some food.

MAUNDY THURSDAY:

OPENING PRAYER:

(light all 3 candles)

Jesus, you loved your first disciples all the way to the end. You love us in the same way, to the end and even beyond. Draw us into the mystery of your last days that we may love you and serve you. In Jesus name; amen.

SCRIPTURE READING:

John 13:1-15

(extinguish 1 candle)

INTERCESSIONS & LORD'S PRAYER:

Bring all people into your love, Jesus.

Save your people, Lord.

Strengthen Your church in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Save your people, Lord.

Renew in love all the clergy and bishops in our church.

Save your people, Lord.

Strengthen the bonds of love that bind all married couples

Save your people, Lord.

Draw in those persons who wander away from faith.

Save your people, Lord.

Comfort and help the sick and all who care for them.

Save your people, Lord.

(silence for other prayers...)

Our Father...

BLESSING:

May God bless us and keep us. Fill our home with Your peace, Jesus. Protect us from all darkness, and raise us up tomorrow in your strength. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY:

OPENING PRAYER:

(light 2 candles leaving 1 unlit)

Jesus, you have died for love of us, suffering cross. Were there an easier way to bring salvation and defeat death, surely you would have taken. We thank you that you did not settle for easier ways. Give us the grace to experience your crucifixion in a whole new way, so that we might not seek out easier ways but instead follow your way of salvation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Luke 23:32-47

(extinguish 1 candles, leaving only one lit)

INTERCESSIONS & LORD'S PRAYER:

You fought against the devil:

Through your suffering and cross, save us, Jesus.

You knew hunger and thirst:

Through your suffering and cross, save us, Jesus.

You healed the sick and brought hope to the hopeless:

Through your suffering and cross, save us, Jesus.

You had nowhere to lay your head:

Through your suffering and cross, save us, Jesus.

You were rejected and abandoned:

Through your suffering and cross, save us, Jesus.

You did the will of your Father:

Through your suffering and cross, save us, Jesus.

(silence for other prayers...)

Our Father...

BLESSING:

May God bless us and keep us. Fill our home with Your peace, Jesus. Protect us from all darkness, and raise us up tomorrow in your strength. Amen.

HOLY SATURDAY:

OPENING PRAYER:

(light 1 candle, leaving two unlit)

Jesus, you always spoke the Word of the Father. Without a sound, you lay in the Tomb on Holy Saturday. The Word of God is silenced. Speak to us again, Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Matthew 27:57-66

(extinguish the final candle)

INTERCESSIONS & LORD'S PRAYER:

For all the people who haven't heard your good news:

Jesus, speak words of faith and hope.

For those with no one to speak for them:

Jesus, speak words of faith and hope.

For the Baptized children in our church:

Jesus, speak words of faith and hope.

For those going through confirmation:

Jesus, speak words of faith and hope.

For the fearful and isolated:

Jesus, speak words of faith and hope.

For the sick and those who care for them:

Jesus, speak words of faith and hope.

(silence for other prayers...)

Our Father...

BLESSING:

May God bless us and keep us. Fill our home with Your peace, Jesus. Protect us from all darkness, and raise us up tomorrow in your strength. Amen.

EASTER SUNDAY

(Light all the candles)

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

O death where is your victory?

Christ is risen!

O grave, where is your victory?

Thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

-if you feel really bold stand out on your porch and proclaim "Christ is risen!" until you've found the courage to shout it.

-Play your favorite Easter Song(s) and get ready for Easter Sunrise Service from Ledford's Chapel and a facebook live Easter Service from Oak Forest.

Happy Easter, brothers and sisters. Christ is risen, and we will be back together soon. I love you all.

Peace,

Pastor Bryan