



WELLSPRING
C H U R C H

Good Friday 2023

At-Home Guide

Adapted Good Friday Liturgy – For use with your Community of Family, Friends, or Connection Group
[includes heavy liturgical elements; perhaps less child friendly]

The italicized words are instructions as you navigate outline. Plain words are intended to be read aloud.
Bolded words are intended to be said in unison.

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Begin in silence.

If you are willing and able, kneel and say the following prayer together:

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your Family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

You are welcome to read aloud or meditate on the following passages:
Psalm 22.1-12; Psalm 40.1-14; Psalm 69.1-23, or Hebrew 10.1-25

Read aloud the Passion narrative from the Gospel according to St. John:
John 18.1-19.47 or John 19.1-37

Read the following aloud:

People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We will now pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service
For all church leaders and the people whom they serve
For the churches particularly in State College and the Christians in this community

That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Remain silent. Pray for those names and faces the Spirit brings to mind.

And now, we pray the following together:

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified:
Receive our prayers which we offer before you

for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind, under the curse of sin and death.

Together, we pray:

**For the hungry and the houseless, the destitute and the oppressed
For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled
For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish
For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair
For the sorrowful and bereaved
For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger**

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them,
and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us
the will and patience to minister to their needs.

You may make an invitation to pray aloud for particular persons as they come to mind. Silence may be kept.

Together, we pray:

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Hear us, O Lord: the world and all therein is not as it should be;

Christ have mercy upon us.

Your people suffer under sin, death, and all its curses;

Christ have mercy upon us.

We cry out for your forgiveness and healing; we are pressed in on all sides;

Christ have mercy upon us.

The cry of our lips echoes with those who have gone before us: "How long, O Lord?"

Christ have mercy upon us.

"It was not about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three, because the sun's light failed. The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle. And Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I entrust My spirit." Saying this, He breathed His last. When the centurion saw what happened, he began to glorify God, saying, "This man really was righteous!" All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, went home, striking their chests. But all who knew Him, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things." [Luke 23.44-49]

Silence here may be kept.

Like the women at the Cross, we weep for plight of sin and death, and moreso for the death of the Son of God, who came into the world on our behalf. As we sit in the story of your death, Jesus, help us to mourn well. As we meditate, help us understand the grief of sin and death.

Lord, help us to wait in hope of the Resurrection. **Amen.**

This concludes the liturgy. It is intentionally ended abruptly and without fanfare to reflect the nature of the Passion story. We, like the 12, sit in the darkness of the death of Christ, and await with hope for His Resurrection.

Child-Friendly Good Friday Liturgy

This is intended to be used as a family with children. We hope that this will help you teach the littlest among us about a critical element of the Biblical story.

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If you would like to do the activity with the kids at the end, you'll need:

- *Some scraps of paper, index cards, or post it notes*
- *A writing utensil*
- *A lighter*
- *An outdoor space*

Open with some questions for the kids that are present:

- When was the last time you were sad or afraid?
- What was that like?
- What about a time when you felt sad about something bad you did?
- Do you know what day we're celebrating today? [Good Friday]
- Who knows what Good Friday remembers?

Every year, Christians celebrate a church holiday called Good Friday. It falls on the Friday right before Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is all about remembering and celebrating Jesus' resurrection. Good Friday is the day that we remember when Jesus went to the Cross and died for all people.

What Christians believe is that God created us to live with him. Because of our sin, we no longer can live with God in the same way. God loves us, but our sin separates us from Him.

Good Friday is the day that we remember when Jesus died on the Cross.

- Do you know why Jesus went to the Cross and died?
 - One of the writers of the Bible — John — told us why. He tells us that Jesus said that God loved the whole world like this, that He gave us Jesus so that everyone who believes in Him would be forgiven and saved. Jesus came to us not to condemn us, but that we would be saved through him. [Jn. 3.16-17]

The Bible tells us that when Jesus went to the Cross, he took the sins of the whole world — all the bad stuff we've done and the good stuff we didn't do — as if he did them. He died for us. That's what we remember every Good Friday.

Here's another question:

- Why is Good Friday called "Good Friday" if it's when Jesus died? That's not good at all!
 - Good Friday is good because when Jesus takes our sins, God forgives us and gives us the life that Jesus deserves. That's what we call forgiveness. Jesus died so we would be forgiven.

So what do we have to do to receive God's forgiveness through Jesus? Another of the Bible writers — Paul — tells that if we confess our sins to God and believe that Jesus forgives us and is our Lord, we'll be forgiven (1 John 1.9)

So when we remember Jesus's death, it can make us really sad. It can remind us of all the ways we sin. But the good news is that Jesus died specifically for those things! He tells us that he wants to forgive us, and all we need to do is tell him where we disobeyed and believe that he forgives us and makes us like him.

Now we're going to practice asking Jesus to forgive us.

- Are there any sins you want Jesus to forgive? These can be ways we disobeyed God by doing something we shouldn't or not doing something we should have.
 - Write them down on a piece of paper. You can share with your parent, but you don't have to.
- Once you do, go outside. We can all pray together by repeating after me:

"Jesus, I know I do what I should not and don't do what I should. I'm sorry for that. You promise that if we confess our sins you will forgive us and take our sins away from us. Thank you for loving us and forgiving us."
- As you pray, parents can light the paper on fire. Let the papers burn as a symbol of God taking away and forgiving our sins through Jesus.
- Once you pray this, make sure to give everyone a hug and tell them: "God loves you and forgives you in Jesus' name. Amen!"
- Additionally, consider praying and thanking God for forgiving our sins through Jesus!