

# PRAYER GUIDE

## Good Friday Vigil – March 29, 2024

Welcome to this Prayer Time.

As you begin this time of prayer first, take a few deep breaths and look around this special place you have chosen in which to pray. Calm your mind and your spirit as you approach God in prayer. At this time, if you wish, light a candle to represent the presence of the Holy Spirit with you in this place, at this time. Settle your soul and when are ready begin your conversation with God.

This is the day, we remember Jesus' final hours on this earth, His suffering on the cross. Through prayer and confession, prepare yourself for the promise that His sacrifice on the cross as the perfect Lamb, brings to each of His believers. During this time of confession and prayer may you prepare your hearts and spirit to sing Alleluias on Easter Sunday morning with new understanding and hope.

*Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves, you know what we need, you know what we desire, and we trust that in the name of Jesus you perfect our prayers and hear us as we come before you today.*

An Invitation to Worship

### ADORATION

*The greatness of God assures the worth of mankind. God, the all-powerful Creator, cares for his most valuable creation –people.*

#### **Psalm 8 Common English Bible (CEB)**

##### **Psalm 8**

8 LORD, our Lord, how majestic  
is your name throughout the earth!  
You made your glory higher than heaven!<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>2</sup> From the mouths of nursing babies  
you have laid a strong foundation  
because of your foes,  
in order to stop vengeful enemies.

<sup>3</sup> When I look up at your skies,

at what your fingers made—  
 the moon and the stars  
 that you set firmly in place—  
<sup>4</sup> what are human beings  
 that you think about them;  
 what are human beings that you pay attention to them?  
<sup>5</sup> You've made them only slightly less than divine,  
 crowning them with glory and grandeur.  
<sup>6</sup> You've let them rule over your handiwork,  
 putting everything under their feet—  
<sup>7</sup> all sheep and all cattle, the wild animals too,  
<sup>8</sup> the birds in the sky, the fish of the ocean,  
 everything that travels the pathways of the sea.  
<sup>9</sup> LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

### **Psalm 33:6-9**

6 The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born. 7 He assigned the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs. 8 Let the whole world fear the Lord, and let everyone stand in awe of him. 9 For when he spoke, the world began! It appeared at his command.

## **CONFESSION**

Prayers of Confession – *Am I worthy of His sacrifice and pain?*

**The Scriptures teach us to acknowledge our many sins and offenses and to not conceal them from our heavenly Father. We are to confess them with humble and obedient hearts that we may obtain forgiveness by His infinite goodness and mercy. We ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before Almighty God. Turn now to a time of confession adding your own concerns.**

*I humbly confess my sins to Almighty God.*

*Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is nothing good in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Your*

*promises declared unto men in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His name. Amen*

**During your Time of Reflection – recite to God sins that are on your heart.**

Merciful Father, I have strayed from your guidance.

*(Time of Reflection)*

I have offended against Your holy laws.

*(Time of Reflection)*

I have followed my own thoughts and desires of my own heart.

*(Time of Reflection)*

I have done many things that I should not have done.

*(Time of Reflection)*

I have left undone those things that I should have done.

*(Time of Reflection)*

Almighty Father, apart from you...who am I?

*(Time of Reflection)*

Forgive me, Father for separating myself from your guidance and love.

**Turn now to David's plea for mercy, forgiveness and cleansing. God wants our hearts to be right with Him.**

## **Psalm 51**

51 Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!

Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

<sup>2</sup> Wash me completely clean of my guilt;  
purify me from my sin!

<sup>3</sup> Because I know my wrongdoings,  
my sin is always right in front of me.

- <sup>4</sup> I've sinned against you—you alone.  
I've committed evil in your sight.  
That's why you are justified when you render your verdict,  
completely correct when you issue your judgment.
- <sup>5</sup> Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin,  
from the moment my mother conceived me.
- <sup>6</sup> And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places;  
you teach me wisdom in the most secret space. [\[a\]](#)
- <sup>7</sup> Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean;  
wash me and I will be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and celebration again;  
let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins;  
wipe away all my guilty deeds!
- <sup>10</sup> Create a clean heart for me, God;  
put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!
- <sup>11</sup> Please don't throw me out of your presence;  
please don't take your holy spirit away from me.
- <sup>12</sup> Return the joy of your salvation to me  
and sustain me with a willing spirit.

*Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. You dwell in unapproachable Light, you know all things, and you are of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. I have searched myself and confessed my sins and failures, as enabled by the Spirit of your Son Jesus, holding nothing back. At Calvary your Son freely assumed the sins of the world in His suffering and death, taking on himself all my weaknesses, frailty, fear, and abandonment. He now lives forever in Your presence as a sympathetic high priest, presenting His suffering to open the way for my salvation. In sure confidence that my confession is heard and accepted by you Father, in reliance on the Son Jesus Christ, fill me with your Holy Spirit now and always that I may walk with you into each new day and as I approach the cross today, may I come with a heart cleansed by your blood and receive your grace through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## THANKSGIVING

**Psalm 139 -**

- 139 LORD, you have examined me.  
You know me.
- <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I stand up.  
Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.
- <sup>3</sup> You study my traveling and resting.  
You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> There isn't a word on my tongue, LORD,  
that you don't already know completely.
- <sup>5</sup> You surround me—front and back.  
You put your hand on me.
- <sup>6</sup> That kind of knowledge is too much for me;  
it's so high above me that I can't reach it.
- <sup>7</sup> Where could I go to get away from your spirit?  
Where could I go to escape your presence?
- <sup>8</sup> If I went up to heaven, you would be there.  
If I went down to the grave, [\[a\]](#) you would be there too!
- <sup>9</sup> If I could fly on the wings of dawn,  
stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—  
  
even there your hand would guide me;  
even there your strong hand would hold me tight!
- <sup>11</sup> If I said, "The darkness will definitely hide me;  
the light will become night around me,"
- <sup>12</sup> even then the darkness isn't too dark for you!  
Nighttime would shine bright as day,  
because darkness is the same as light to you!
- <sup>13</sup> You are the one who created my innermost parts;  
you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> **I give thanks to you** that I was marvelously set apart.  
Your works are wonderful—I know that very well.

**Remembering all that God has given you, come now to a time of remembrance and thanksgiving for His continued blessings in your life.**

*Almighty God, we give thanks for your gentle and enduring love, for sending us your son Jesus to show us the way to live.*

*Hear my prayer O Lord.*

(Time of Reflection)

*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, so we lift our hearts up to you, God, in praise and thanksgiving.*

*Hear my prayer O Lord.*

(Time of Reflection)

*We thank you for plentiful harvests and full refrigerators and ask that you supply the needs of those who are hungry.*

*Hear my prayer O Lord.*

(Time of Reflection)

*We thank you for jobs that provide for our families and supply the needs of our society, and pray that you would care for those who have no work, or the dignity and purpose it brings.*

*Hear my prayer O Lord.*

(Time of Reflection)

*We thank you for opportunities and choices, for meaning and challenges, and pray that you would give a sense of purpose to those who feel trapped.*

*Hear my prayer O Lord.*

(Time of Reflection)

*We thank you for family and friends who love us and care for us and pray that you would befriend those who are alone.*

*Hear my prayer O Lord.*

(Time of Reflection)

**You are invited to add your own petitions of thanksgiving at this time, ending each with a moment of reflection and thankfulness.**

## SUPPLICATION

You are invited now into a time of supplication and intercessory prayer. Following are petitions for our community of faith as a guide. During your quiet “Time of Reflection,” you are encouraged to add your own concerns and to silent your mind and listen as God speaks to you.

*Let us pray for the universal Church throughout the world that God will deepen the Church’s faith and hope, teach us the way of love, and bless us with peace.*

*Hear my prayer O Lord.*

*(Time of Reflection)*

*Pray for our church leaders, Pastors and staff. We ask for Your guidance in all they offer to our congregation and community.*

*Hear my prayer O Lord.*

*(Time of Reflection)*

*Pray for the injustice throughout the world and for Christians who are oppressed by war and for all places where the gospel is silenced.*

*Hear my prayer O Lord.*

*(Time of Reflection)*

*Pray for mental health at this time and at all times. Banish fear, confusion, depression, prejudice, and loss of faith from all souls.*

*Here my prayer O Lord.*

*[Time of Reflection]*

*Let us pray for those in authority throughout the world. For all the peoples of the earth, their leaders, and all who hold office, local governments and courts, and all armed forces and civil servants.*

*Hear my prayer O Lord.*

*(Time of Reflection)*

*Pray for all who serve protecting the weak and caring for those in need: doctors, nurses, police, firefighters, hospice and care givers building a healthy community.*

*Hear my prayer O Lord.*

*(Time of Reflection)*

*Pray for our spiritual life in this time, and at all times, that our lives and our works may glorify God and that we may experience the peace that surpasses understanding.*

*Hear my prayer O Lord.*

*[Time of Reflection]*

Turn to God with your personal needs remembering others that are searching for God's comfort.

Now as believers you stand with others at the Cross:

**Slowly read through this final prayer written by Anne Graham Lotz in, *Jesus in Me*. Taking time to ponder each phrase, acknowledging that the Holy Spirit is in you and will walk with you today and everyday through your life. This is the gift that Jesus' death on the cross brings to each of us.**

*Dear Spirit of Jesus,*

*When You first hovered over chaos, order came to birth, beauty robed the world, fruitfulness sprang forth.*

*I have learned so much about You that I long to be filled with You until I overflow. You who proceed from the Father and the Son, look on me and have mercy.*

*Please, move, I pray, upon my disordered heart;*

*Take away the infirmities of unruly desires and hateful lusts;*

*Lift the mists and darkness of unbelief;*

*Brighten my soul with the pure light of truth;*

*Fulfill in me the glory of Your divine offices;*



*Be my helper, comforter, advocate, intercessor, strengthener.*

*Take the things of Jesus and sow them to my soul;*

*Through You may I daily learn more of His love, grace, compassion, faithfulness, beauty;*

*Lead me to the cross and show me His wounds, the hateful nature of evil, the power of Satan;*

*May I there see my sins as...*

*the nails that transfixed Him,*

*the cords that bound Him,*

*the thorns that tore Him,*

*the sword that pierced Him.*

*Help me find in His death the reality and immensity of His love.*

*Increase my faith in the clear knowledge of atonement achieved, guilt done away, my debt paid, my sins forgiven, my person redeemed, my soul saved, hell vanquished, Heaven opened, and eternity made mine.*

*Make me a pure vessel. A clean temple. A polished living stone that reflects His purity and glory.*

*O Holy Spirit, deepen in me these saving lessons.*

*Write them upon my heart that my walk would be sin loathing, sin fleeing, Christ exalting, glory giving, until all see Jesus overflowing in me. And until You rejoice as the universe erupts in applause for the One who alone is worthy of all praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever!*

*For the glory of His great name—Jesus.*

*Amen.*

*from, Jesus in Me, by Anne Graham Lotz*

