

Maundy Thursday Prayer Meditation

*Let my prayer be set before You as incense,
The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Psalm 141:2*

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God, so may your mercy come down to us and cleanse our hearts and bring us into open-hearted freedom so we will make our needs known to you.

Luke 22:39-46

39 And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. 40 And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." 41 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." 43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. 45 And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, 46 and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Psalm 103: 6-14

6 The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.
7 He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who
fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from
us.
13 As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear
him.
14 For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.

Isaiah 53: 2-6

2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at
him, and no beauty that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us
peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Almighty God, whose dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Lord Christ, we hold up all our weaknesses to your strength, our failure to your faithfulness, our sinfulness to your perfection, our loneliness to your compassion, our little pains to your great agony on the Cross. Cleanse us, strengthen us, guide us, to that in all ways our lives may be lived as you would have them lived, without cowardice and for you alone. Show us how to live in true humility, true contrition, and true love. Amen.

Prompts for Prayer for our Churches

+Pray that God would give us opportunities to serve the people of our community (South Minneapolis and all the Twin Cities area), and that through our service we would bear witness to Christ.

+Pray that God would use Restoration to introduce disconnected and disoriented people to Christ and to Christian community.

+Pray for the rest of our Holy Week services, for those who will attend the Easter Vigil, and all those who are seeking a church community. Pray that we will grow in our knowledge and love of Christ, and deepen our relationships with each other.

+Pray for those being baptized at Easter Vigil, and their families, that they may grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus: Lillian Hope Boemler.

+Pray that we would fulfill Christ's command to love one another and to be one as He and the Father are one. That God would continue to build strong connections and friendships among people in our church and that as a community we would be open to Christ's leading for whatever He has for us in the future.

+ Pray for protection over all the members of our community as we follow Christ—and especially over our children and youth as they grow in faith.

+Pray that all of those who are part of our church would find ways and receive an invitation to serve and use their gifts for the strengthening of our community and our mission.

+Give thanks to God for His provision for our church, and ask His help that we would continue to be good stewards of all that He has provided for us.

+Pray for our leaders Rick and Molly Stawarz and the staff at Restoration as they lead services this weekend and continue to shepherd our bursting congregation.

+Pray for our sister church, Church of the Redeemer, in Saint Paul and Fr. Paul Calvin, as they continue to reach out in love to honor Christ and serve him in St. Paul. Pray for their youth in the congregation that they may find church to be a place of life and direction.

+Pray for our sister church, Resurrection Anglican, and Fr. Josh Moon, in Crystal, as they continue in their first year of weekly services. Pray that their Easter service would be a powerful celebration of Resurrection power.

+Pray for our planting church, Church of the Cross, in Hopkins MN and their leaders, Fr. Christian and Molly Ruch. Pray that they would continue to reach their neighborhood and for their community easter egg hunt to be a place of connection with the Hopkins community.

+Pray for unity and partnership with other Anglican churches in our Diocese of the Upper Midwest. Pray for our Bishop Stewart, his wife Katherine, and their family as they navigate a time of leave.

+Pray for our close neighboring churches and their pastors and for the Holy Week services: First Evangelical Free (Joel Sutton), Urban Refuge (Jason Meyer), Trinity Falls Lutheran (Matt Oxendale), Crosstown Covenant (John Jacobi), The Brook Community (Seth Martin), City Church (Rich Schoenert)

+Pray for healing for any in our community who are sick or especially in need. Pray for those who are still absent from church due to Covid-19 complication, and those who will be worshipping from home via the livestream.

O God, with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light; Quench our thirst with living water, and flood our darkened minds with heavenly light; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prompts for Prayer For Partnering Ministries

+Pray for Arrive Ministries as they serve refugees throughout the Twin Cities. Pray that they would receive the resources needed for this ministry as they welcome refugees from all over the world. Pray for the Good Neighbor team that is being formed at Restoration and for the family with which they will be matched.

+Pray for InnerChange as they walk with people often marginalized and ignored by society. Pray for refreshment for the Minneapolis team and for fresh vision in the coming months.

+Pray for Together for Good as they provide temporary care to the children of parents in crisis. Pray for more host families to join in caring for children in families of the Twin Cities.

+Pray for Anselm House and their ministry at the University of Minnesota. Pray for their staff, upcoming student events, and for the wrapping up of the fellows program.

+Pray for those working with the Anglican Relief and Development Fund: Joseph Fund. Pray that churches would contribute generously to this fund that Anglicans can be quick and nimble in our response to global crises around the world.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.