

Daily Prayers and Readings

*Journeying through Holy Week to the
wonder of Easter*

April and May 2020



*For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in him
should not perish but have eternal life*

John 3:16

Dear friends,

These prayers and readings take us to the end of our Lent journey, into Holy Week and beyond into the joys of Eastertide. At this time I'm also hoping they will give some comfort and routine to our daily lives as it may be some time before we gather together again.

When all is uncertain and we may feel we currently 'walk through the valley of the shadow' let's not forget that we don't walk this pathway alone, for the Lord is ever present throughout our trials and tribulations.

May each and every one of you stay safe and well. The joy of the Resurrection will come. Joy and every blessing to each and all.....JD

The weekly readings are taken from the Common Lectionary and reflect those used on the immediate Sunday in our own church and very many others. In normal times we use them on a daily basis in our chapel at 10am. They can be used equally for private devotions. In the chapel the prayers of Intercession include those requested by members of the public and our own congregation. We pray too for our sister church in Fenstanton, for the local community, for Churches Together in St Ives, and the Imams and worshippers at the local Mosques. We pray for each other and our world.

Prayers for Lent

*All. In the night-time of our fears
and in our time of questioning,
be present, ever present God.
Be present with those camped out in the
fields of hopelessness,
with refugees, the sick and the homeless,
those who live lives of quiet desperation.
Be present until the desert places
Blossom like the rose
And hope is born again. (Kate McIlhagga)*

*L. Let us keep silent for our personal
confession and reflection.*

*All. Joy giving spirit,
be our light in darkness,
come to befriend us,
help us bear our burdens,
give us true courage,
breathe your peace around us,
stay with us always.*

THE READING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

During this uncertain time, and while we may well praying in our own homes, consider those in need - our families, communities and the wider world. Please pray especially for those key workers in all areas of life, from medical to delivery workers, who will be ensuring life goes on as best as it can.

THE LORDS PRAYER

*All. Jesus our brother,
Once you knelt sleepless
in the darkness of a garden alone
and wept and prayed,
sweating, bleeding,
with the pain of powerlessness
with the strain of waiting.
An angel offered you strength
But it was a bitter cup.
We pray for all who wake tonight,
waiting, agonising, anxious and afraid,
while others sleep:
For those who sweat
and bleed and weep alone,
If it is not possible
for their cup to be taken away -
then may they know your presence
kneeling at their side. Amen*

THE GRACE

Prayers for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Saturday

All. Faithful God, Jesus gave us the gift of his own body and blood that we might have food to sustain us. As we share the Eucharist of Jesus Christ, let us become Eucharist for one another. May our lives be blessed, broken and given that your people may live. This we ask in the name of Jesus, Our living bread. Amen

L. Let us keep silent for our personal confession and reflection

All. O God, may the contemplation of your Passion and death so affect the core of our minds and hearts that all our desires, decisions and actions may be directed to you in your kingdom of justice, peace and truth.

THE READING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

If we are praying in our own homes, consider those in need - our families, communities and the wider world. For those who are sick and those who grieve. Please continue to pray for key workers, ensuring strength, fortitude and compassion.

THE LORDS PRAYER

*All. Jesus, we pause to remember your sacrificial love
That shone light into the darkness
That bore life from such emptiness
That revealed hope out of devastation
That spoke truth through incrimination
That released freedom in spite of imprisonment
And brought us forgiveness instead of punishment.*

*Thank you that we can now walk in the light of your life, hope, truth and forgiveness, This day and every day
Amen*

*All. Lord Jesus, I await you.
Be risen anew in my heart
As the light of Easter dawns Amen*

THE GRACE

For Easter and beyond into May

*All. The veil of darkness transformed to
the brightest light.*

*The most dreadful end became the
most beautiful beginning.*

*The depths of despair fade to reveal
hope everlasting.*

*The curse of death defeated by
Eternal life. Amen*

*L. Let us keep silent for our personal
confession and reflection.*

*All. O Christ the Master carpenter,
who at the last, through wood and nails,
purchased our whole salvation,
wield well your tools in the workshop of
your world,
so that we who come rough hewn to your
bench
May be fashioned to a truer beauty of
your hand.
We ask it for your own name's sake
Amen (George MacLeod)*

THE READING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*If we are praying in our own homes, consider those in need -
our families, communities and the wider world. For those who
are sick and those who grieve. Please continue to pray for key
workers, ensuring strength, fortitude and compassion.*

THE LORDS PRAYER

*All. Come down, O Love Divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
Oh Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

*And so the yearning strong
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human
telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till he becomes the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his
dwelling.*

THE GRACE