

Prayers and readings for keeping Good Friday at home.

Opening prayer:

Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus
we see the cost of our sin
and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear
may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First reading:

Isaiah 52: v13 – to the end of chapter 53

Reflect on the reading and listen to:

Albinoni – Adagio in G minor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JXeoZpMnNc>

Psalm:

Psalm 22: 1 – 22

Reflect on the reading and listen to:

Allegri – Miserere <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3v9unphfi0>

Gospel reading:

St John's Gospel chapters 18 and 19

Reflect on the reading and listen to:

Barber – Adagio for strings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LPXr9oEmmY>

Intercessions:

We pray for the worldwide Church and all Christians throughout the world, remembering especially those keeping Holy Week in difficult or dangerous conditions

We pray for our world, so loved by God; for a just and equitable sharing of the good things of the earth; for those who take decisions that affect the lives of many, that justice and peace will be established.

We pray for the sick in body, mind or spirit; for those ill with the coronavirus; for those for whom self – isolation exacerbates loneliness, depression and anxiety; for strength, courage and hope for all who live in the shadow of this virus.

We pray for our communities; for hospitals, doctors and medical staff tending the sick with coronavirus; for the emergency services; for all those who are helping neighbours and others who are self – isolating.

We pray for those coming to the end of their lives; those who are alone, those who have no one to pray for - and with – them

We remember all those who have died of the coronavirus, praying that the eternal life and love of God will enfold them forever.

The Lord's Prayer

A poem of hope by John Addison:

When rising from the bed of death,
O'erwhelmed with guilt and fear,
I see my Maker face to face,
O how shall I appear?

If yet, while pardon may be found,
And mercy may be sought,

My heart with inward horror shrinks,
And trembles at the thought;

When Thou, O Lord, shalt stand disclosed
In majesty severe,
And sit in judgment on my soul,
O how shall I appear?

But Thou hast told the troubled mind
Who does her sins lament,
The timely tribute of her tears
Shall endless woe prevent.

Then see the sorrow of my heart,
Ere yet it be too late;
And hear my Saviour's dying groans,
To give those sorrows weight.

For never shall my soul despair
Her pardon to procure,
Who knows Thine only Son has died
To make her pardon sure.

Reflect on the reading and listen to:

Vaughan Williams - Adagio on a theme by Thomas Tallis

(The English Hymnal published a hymn setting this poem to the Vaughan Williams music).

Final prayer:

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.