

# A VIGIL OF PRAYER

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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The Lord is near you, on your lips and in your heart. If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. (Romans 10)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY** John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

<sup>12</sup>After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you?' <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

<sup>31b</sup> Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

### **Prayer 1**

*Dearest Lord Jesus, on this the night you were betrayed, my heart cries out in despair. I recall the times I myself have betrayed you by not doing as you commanded and by putting myself first during the times you called me to take a back seat to others. I hang my head in shame at the times I have not "washed the feet of others"—have not served others when you called me to do so. Forgive my self-centeredness and my out of control ego, Lord. Help me to hear your voice and give me the strength and courage to follow your example. Amen.*

## Prayer 2

*Help me dear Lord to pay attention to all I do and say. Help me to notice when I turn my back on you. Thirty pieces of silver is what Judas Iscariot got for betraying you. Help me to see where I accept the 30 pieces of silver today. Is my 30 pieces of silver, the laughter I share when a distasteful joke is told and I do not say, "NO?" Is my 30 pieces of silver the \$10.00 bill I have and hold onto when I see someone in need? Is my 30 pieces of silver the attention/pats on the back I bring to myself when I say... "Look what I did! I did this! This is my...house, car, ministry, creation, home etc.?" Help me, Lord, to never have to worry about getting rid of the 30 pieces, by not taking it to begin with. In your name Sweet Savior I pray, Amen.*

## GOOD FRIDAY John 18:1-19:42

18After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup>Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup>So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' <sup>5</sup>They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus said to them, 'I am he', they stepped back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup>Again he asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.' <sup>9</sup>This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, 'I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.' <sup>10</sup>Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. <sup>11</sup>Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?'

12 So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup>First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. <sup>14</sup>Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people. <sup>15</sup> Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, <sup>16</sup>but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup>The woman said to Peter, 'You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?' He said, 'I am not.' <sup>18</sup>Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

19 Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. <sup>20</sup>Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said

nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.' <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, 'Is that how you answer the high priest?' <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered, 'If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?' <sup>24</sup>Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, 'You are not also one of his disciples, are you?' He denied it and said, 'I am not.' <sup>26</sup>One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, 'Did I not see you in the garden with him?' <sup>27</sup>Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

<sup>28</sup> Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup>So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?' <sup>30</sup>They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.' <sup>31</sup>Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.' <sup>32</sup>(This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' <sup>35</sup>Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' <sup>37</sup>Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' <sup>38</sup>Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' <sup>40</sup>They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.

<sup>19</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face. <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.' <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!' <sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.' <sup>7</sup>The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

8 Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. <sup>9</sup>He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?' <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.' <sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.'

13 When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' <sup>15</sup>They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' <sup>16</sup>Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup>and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup>Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' <sup>23</sup>When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup>So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.' <sup>25</sup>And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. <sup>28</sup>After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

31 Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. <sup>32</sup>Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that

he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup>(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) <sup>36</sup>These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' <sup>37</sup>And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

<sup>38</sup> After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. <sup>40</sup>They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup>And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

### **Prayer 1**

*Oh Lord, how many times? How many times have I given you cause to cry out? How many times have those words been spoken for me, "Forgive them Father, they know not what they do"? How many times Lord, have I pounded the nails into you? How many times I have caused the whip to strike you? How often Lord have I been the reason you shed tears? How often have I refused to help you carry the cross? Lord forgive me, for I do not know why or how I have done that. And give me the strength pick up "my cross" and follow you forevermore. Amen.*

### **Prayer 2**

*I sit here dear Lord and I look at my hands. I imagine a spike going through them and I shudder. I imagine them going through my feet and I cringe. The beating, the humiliation, the betrayals, the torture...I cannot imagine doing this for one I loved let alone for those who despise me, have hurt me and abused me. I cannot imagine the depths of love that would lead one to do this. And my heart breaks...I do not deserve it, never in a million years. None of us do, yet you freely did this for those of us who hurt you. Forgive me, my Lord, forgive my selfishness, forgive me when I turn from you, forgive me when I blame you and forgive me, when I forget how much I love you. Amen.*

## **HOLY SATURDAY** John 20:1-18

<sup>20</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but

he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

### **Prayer 1**

*Like Mary Magdalene at the grave site Lord, I need my eyes opened. Open my eyes Lord, open my heart. I want to see you. So many times I am blind to you. I do not recognize you even when you are smack dab in front of me. I wonder where you are. I wonder where you went. I wonder why you are gone. Why did you leave me? I do not always realize one simple fact...if I am feeling abandoned by you, it is because I left you. You did not turn away from me. I turned away from you. I stop seeing you at times, even as you are in my "space". Keep knocking at my heart, Lord, knock even harder when I refuse to answer. Amen.*

### **Prayer 2**

*Jesus, my Jesus. I am yours. You are mine. In this day and age, the only thing that is sure and steadfast is your love for me. For all you have done for me. I thank you. For all you do for me I am grateful. And for the comfort in knowing you will always have my back, I have no words to express my extreme thankfulness. They say the only sure things in life are death and taxes. You beat out the things of this world. The only sure and constant, Lord, is you and your love and care for us. Tonight, as we raise the alleluia from the grave help me to say "Alleluia" with a new and profound appreciation for all you do for all your children, once again, whether we deserve it or not. My life is yours! Amen.*

*Mindful of God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us pray for the poor, the needy, and all who follow in the way of the cross.*

### **Let us pray**

For those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit will show them the way to salvation in Jesus Christ.

**Let us pray**

For those who desire our prayers. Blessed Lord, we ask your loving care and protection for those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit and who desire our prayers. Take from them all fears and help them put their trust in you, that they may feel your strong arms around them. Touch them with your renewing love, that they may know wholeness in you and glorify your name.

**Let us pray**

For guidance in right decisions. Lord, enlighten me by your Holy Spirit, that I may recognize what is your will in every situation; give me courage to decide every issue accordingly and leave the final outcome to your direction.

**Let us pray**

For use of our leisure time. O God give us times of refreshment and peace in the course of this busy life and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds that our spirits may be opened to the gladness of your creation.

**Let us pray**

For peace among nations; Almighty God, guide the nations of the world into ways of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Let us pray**

For the ministry and needs of the church, humankind, and all the world.

***Closing (Psalm 103)***

Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me,  
    bless his holy name.  
He redeems my life from the grave,  
    and crowns me with mercy and loving kindness.

**Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,...

**Psalm 121** *(The Lord Our Protector)*

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand, so that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Psalm Prayer:

*Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared a quiet place for us in your Father's eternal home. Watch over our welfare on this perilous journey, shade us from the burning heat of day, and keep our lives free of evil now and forever. Amen.*

**Psalm 130** (A Prayer for Help)

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;

Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?

For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; In his words is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy;

with him there is plenteous redemption,

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Psalm Prayer:

*God of might and compassion, you sent your Word into the world as a watchman to announce the dawn of salvation. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins, but listen to your Church pleading for the fullness of your redeeming grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Psalm 28** (A Prayer for Help)

O Lord, I call to you; my rock, do not be deaf to my cry; lest, if you do not hear me,  
I become like those who go down to the pit.

Hear the voice of my prayer when I cry out to you, when I lift up my hands to your  
holy of holies.

Do not snatch me away with the wicked or with the evildoers, who speak peaceably  
with their neighbors, while strife is in their hearts.

Repay them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their  
actions.

According to the work of their hands repay them, and give them their just deserts.

They have no understanding of the Lord's doings, nor of the works of his hands;  
therefore he will break them down and not build them up.

Blessed is the Lord! For he has heard the voice of my prayer.

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I have been  
helped; therefore my heart dances for joy, and in my song will I praise him.

The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.

Save your people and bless your inheritance; shepherd them and carry them  
forever.

Psalm Prayer:

*God of might and compassion, you sent your Word into the world as a watchman to announce the dawn of salvation. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins, but listen to your Church pleading for the fullness of your redeeming grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*