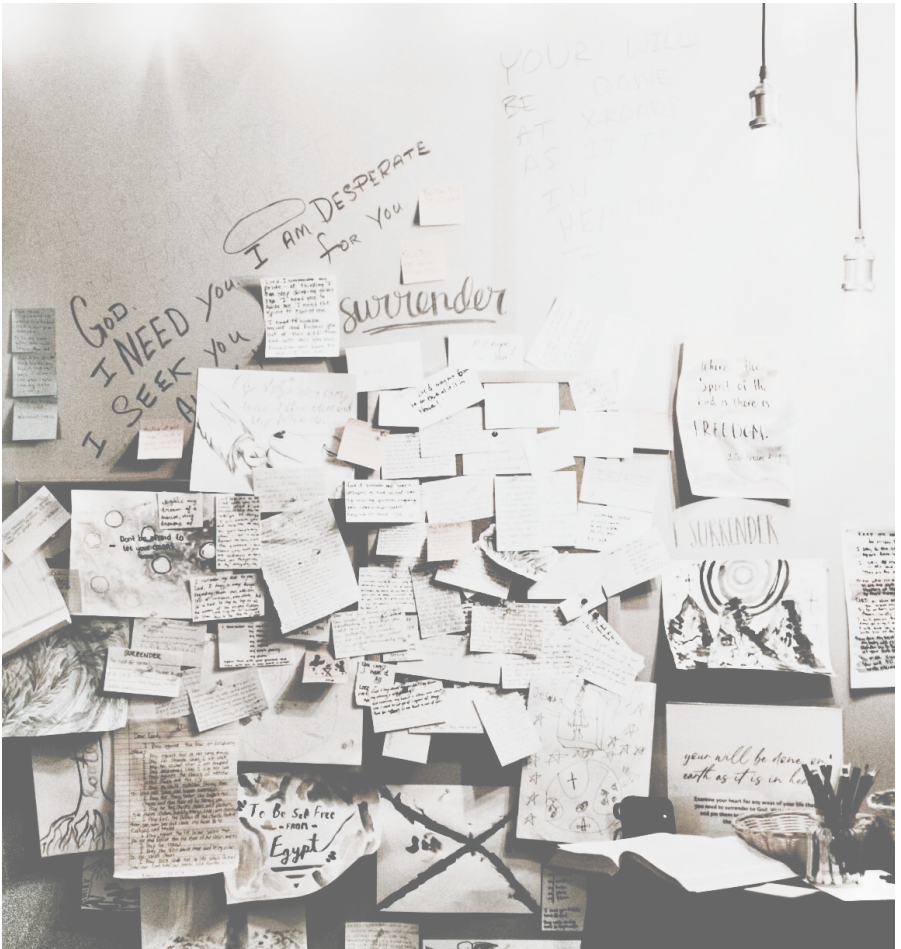


Holy Week prayer guide



24/7 PRAYER

 **Crossroads**
BIBLE CHURCH

2024 EDITION

Palm Sunday

PRAYER

Jesus,

I give you thanks, for you are good, and your mercy is new every morning. Here I stand, at the start of this holy week, this week in which your church remembers Jesus' passion and death. I admit that I am prone to being distracted by many things. Turn my eyes now to Jesus, the one who bore the weight of my sins, the one who hears, forgives, heals, and answers when I call.

As I go through this coming week, open my eyes that I may see you in all your suffering. Continue to create in me a clean heart. Bring to my mind the things I need to repent of so that I can see and serve you in wholeheartedness. Help me to be willing to walk in the way of suffering.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

BIBLE VERSES + HYMN FOR REFLECTION

Matthew 21:1–11, Psalm 118:1–2, Psalm 118:19–29

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face.
And the things of Earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

PRAY FOR HIS KINGDOM TO COME IN OUR CITY AND THE NATIONS

Andrew + Marta Speas // Cantabria, Spain

Andrew and Marta invest in the lives of young people who have lost their way in order that they might have a second chance at life. Andrew and Marta create a family environment as they live in community, share meals and mentor all that come through their doors. Please pray for them for renewed energy, patience, and grace as they live into bringing shalom to chaos. Especially pray for them as they are trying to start a family of their own.

Jon + Tara Blahnik // Grand Rapids, MI

Jon and his wife, Tara, just celebrated 10 years of serving at Union High School! He and his team of leaders pour into high school students, doing a consistent Bible Club and fostering conversation centered around the Gospel. Pray for them as they engage the next generation for Christ!

Monday

PRAYER

Jesus,

Six days before your death, you sat at the home of Lazarus, whom you had raised from the dead, and ate dinner. Once again, your gospel tells us, Martha served, and Mary knelt at your feet to anoint them with costly perfume. The disciple who was about to betray you stated that Mary's act of devotion was a waste. But we now know that her devotion was preparing you for what was to come in just a few days, your death and burial.

You, Jesus, suffered and died for me. I know that I cannot have real strength, reckless boldness, and complete devotion unless I rely fully on you. I know that in my many weaknesses I will never be strong until I turn to you for strength. I know that I will never have peace and forgiveness until I turn to your unalterable love for me that exists even despite me.

Help me to look at your scandalous act of grace on the cross this week and not turn my gaze away in shame or discomfort. Allow me to internalize this scene. Give me eyes to see your incredible love and justice as they meet in that moment in time. May this truth not just rest in my mind, but may it penetrate my heart as well.

To God be the glory. Amen.

BIBLE VERSES + HYMN FOR REFLECTION

John 12:1-8, Romans 5:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:21

Here is Love

*Here is love, vast as the ocean,
lovingkindness as the flood:
when the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
throughout heav'n's eternal days.*

*On the mount of crucifixion
fountains opened deep and wide;
through the floodgates of God's mercy
flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
poured incessant from above,
and heav'n's peace and perfect justice
kissed a guilty world in love.*

PRAY FOR HIS KINGDOM TO COME IN OUR CITY AND THE NATIONS

Neil + Ruth Martin // Oxford, UK

Neil and Ruth along with their four children, Ginny, Willow, Sam and Robin live in the shadow of Oxford University. Along with church and academic responsibilities, Neil is the founder of B-Less ministries. B-Less exists to identify ministry-minded graduate students, training and deploying them to support proven ministry pathways among undergraduates while they are studying in the same institutions. They ask for prayers for Willow's upcoming public exams. Please also pray for their new student representatives as they step into this important work.

Sarah Bultman // Birch Rise Coaching

Sarah Works at Birch Rise Coaching which is a unique ministry that helps people post mission work (YWAM) become grounded in what God has next for them. As these passionate young people graduate from this intensive stage of training, Sarah walks with them into their first ministry experience.

PRAYER

Jesus,

The message of the cross is difficult to understand. How can death give way to life? How can weakness be strength? Yet your word says that you, being God, took on human flesh and suffered the worst kind of death. How can this be? How do I "celebrate" the passion and death of Jesus? I am just beginning to scratch the surface of what it means to be loved by you. Help me to celebrate this astounding love that you have shown to me by becoming like you.

You, Jesus, were humble and obedient. While fully God, you became human and suffered. I ask you for the desire to become humbler so that my own life might also bear witness to who you are and your work on the cross. I want to use the small sufferings I have in this world to give you glory.

Jesus, be the source of my strength.

Amen.

BIBLE VERSES + HYMN FOR REFLECTION

Matthew 26:36-46, Hebrews 5:7-9, Philippians 2:5-11

Humble King

*Oh, kneel me down again
Here at your feet
Show me how much you love humility
Oh Spirit be the star that leads me to
The humble heart of love I see in you*

*You are the God of the broken
The friend of the weak
You wash the feet of the weary
Embrace the ones in need
I want to be like You, Jesus
To have this heart in me
You are the God of the humble
You are the humble King*

PRAY FOR HIS KINGDOM TO COME IN OUR CITY AND THE NATIONS

Ben + Suzi Collins // Thailand

Ben and Suzi and their 3 children (Life, Sunny and Beatrix) currently live in a rural village about 4 hours outside of Bangkok in the direction of Isaan, the Northeast part of Thailand which is one of the least reached areas with the gospel. They are planting themselves in a rural agricultural community and opening up their home and lives with the prayer to reach their neighbors with the gospel of Jesus. Please pray for them as their 9-month-old son, Lazarus, passed away in his sleep earlier this month.

Tyler Smies // Executive Director, First Tee of West Michigan

Tyler works with Stocking Elementary School and First Tee enabling kids to build character that will empower them through a lifetime of challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with life skills curriculum they create learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that they will carry forward into everything they do. Pray for Tyler, his staff, and the students from Stocking Elementary as they ramp up for their season!

Wednesday

PRAYER

Jesus,

We tremble to think that it was one of your own friends who betrayed you. One who sat with you, who broke bread with you. Help me to examine my own heart this week. Is there any way in which I am failing to represent you well? Is there any way in which I am also betraying you?

Give me strength to walk faithfully with you, even when the road is rocky, even when the message of the cross seems like foolishness, and even when I feel betrayed. Please guide my mind with your truth. Strengthen my life by your example. Help me to see you clearly this week as you continually demonstrate your love for me in big and small ways.

Even though I often stumble, you are always faithful. You are steady and sure. Give me the grace to endure and reveal to me the glory of your kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever, Amen.

BIBLE VERSES + HYMN FOR REFLECTION

Matthew 26:27-56, 1 Corinthians 1:18, Galatians 2:20

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

*How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory.*

*Behold the Man upon the cross,
My sin upon His shoulders,
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.*

*I will not boast in anything;
No gifts, no power, no wisdom,
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.*

PRAY FOR HIS KINGDOM TO COME IN OUR CITY AND THE NATIONS

Ben + Kari David // Hope Speaks, Uganda

Ben and Kari live in Uganda and serve with Hope Speaks, a mission organization that inspires hope by raising the voices of people with disabilities through therapy, advocacy, and social services. Kari is the Executive Director and serves as a speech pathologist. Ben is the in-country director for Uganda. Please pray for them as they are looking to hire more speech pathologists. The need is overwhelming.

Emily Nyquist // Ann Arbor, MI

Emily is an intern at New Life Church, a church in the heart of Ann Arbor with a passion to reach college students for Christ. Pray for her as she walks alongside students in this formative time of life.

PRAYER

Lord God,

On this night, before your hour had come, you gathered your disciples in the upper room and washed their feet. You had all things in your hands. You came from your Father's throne above and were going back to the heavenly realm, and yet, what did you do? You knelt on the floor and washed your disciples' feet. You were the Lord of the universe, yet you washed feet.

Jesus, help me learn from your example. Help me to do as you have done for me. You said that the world will know that we are your disciples if we love one another. Lord, when I face the crosses of my own life, give me Your divine courage and strength to say "Yes" to the will of the Father. Your love for me is abundant and is perfect in every way. Help me to know that love, to embrace it and to allow it into my life.

I love You, help me to love You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.

BIBLE VERSES + HYMN FOR REFLECTION

John 13:1-17, John 13:34-35, John 17

And Can It Be?

*And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

*He left His Father's throne above
So free, so infinite His grace-
Humbled Himself because of love,
And bled for all His chosen race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!*

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.*

*No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.*

PRAY FOR HIS KINGDOM TO COME IN OUR CITY AND THE NATIONS

GJ + Kate Flikweert // Uganda

GJ and Katie are serving with Shepherd's Staff in Northern Uganda together with their two boys, Benjamin and Isaiah. GJ is serving in a few different roles. His main focus is discipleship and business training while overseeing a micro loan program. Kate is teaching at a Teachers Training College run by an organization call Read for Life. Please pray for them as they are seeking direction about relocating to a new city.

Austin + Maddie Schubert // Grand Rapids, MI

Austin is the area representative for Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Their mission is to lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church. Pray for continued support and stamina as they finish out the school year.

Friday

PRAYER

Lord God,

You cried out on the cross, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Lord, at times, I too ask where you are when there is trouble and suffering and death. I cry out to you for help. I cry out to you on behalf of a world that is in so much chaos and pain. Thank you for simply staying on the cross in order that you might break through the brokenness and bring forth new creation.

I also hear your cry, "It is finished!" Thank you for the finished and complete work of the cross. Thank you for sin cancelled, for heaven gained and for restored relationship with you.

I wait this Friday for the resurrection of Sunday. At times my life seems like many Fridays strung together and it is hard to see – hard to wait for – Sunday. Teach me to call out your name, the name that is above every name and worship you alone. Give me the trust of a child as I look to you for Sunday.

In Jesus name,
Amen.

BIBLE VERSES + HYMN FOR REFLECTION

Isaiah 52:13–15, Isaiah 53, Hebrews 10:16–25, Psalm 22

Jesus Paid it All

*I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

*Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

*And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

PRAY FOR HIS KINGDOM TO COME IN OUR CITY AND THE NATIONS

Brandon + Gabe Hirth // Chang Mai, Thailand

Brandon, Gabe, Noelle, and Adi, are working with Asia Biblical Theological Seminary partnering with Churches to offer a selection of counseling courses across Asia. In addition, they are starting a Christian Counseling emphasis in the Master of Religious Education program. In a challenging area where pastors have little training, these programs significantly strengthen their ability to minister for the gospel. Please pray for deep rest for them and precious time with extended family while they are on sabbatical.

Donny Irving // Grand Rapids, MI

Donny is the founding director of Community Kids, a local organization that focuses on urban students. They provide Bible clubs and mentors to students to transform communities through investment in the next generation. Pray for Donny as his team transitions into a summer schedule and walks with students in this season of extra free time.

Saturday

PRAYER

Lord,

On this day, the day your body lay in the tomb, the world was waiting. Like a long winter hoping for spring, like a dry land awaiting rain, the world and the heavenly realms held their breath to see what you, the Great King would do. Your Son lay still, quiet, lifeless, and cold. Could there be any hope in that dark place? Do we dare to hope?

On this day, Silent Saturday, your body lay in the tomb while those who had loved and followed You spent the day filled with crushing grief, confusion, and doubt.

Lord, we give to you the times we have in our lives, where all we can do is wait. When we, ourselves have confusion and doubt and when all we can hold on to is hope. I come to you today on behalf of all who wait in that cold, uncertain place. Hold them, keep them safe in your arms, give them peace and help them to rest in your promise of new life.

Grant to all of us the grace to hold on to your promise of new life, new beginnings, and new creation.

Amen.

BIBLE VERSES + HYMN FOR REFLECTION

Lamentations 3:19-24, Isaiah 25:8-9, Psalm 24:13-14

Have Thine own Way, Lord!

*Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord,
wash me just now,
As in Thy presence humbly I bow.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Wounded and weary,
help me, I pray!
Power, all power, surely is Thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me.*

PRAY FOR HIS KINGDOM TO COME IN OUR CITY AND THE NATIONS

Rachel Stevens // Jordan

Rachel is a language student in Jordan with SIM (Sudan Interior Missions). Pray for her as she learns a new language in hope of broadening her capacity for interaction and building strong, deep relationships with the Jordanian women.

Hany + Natalie Ammanoeiel // Grand Rapids, MI

Hany and Natalie serve the Muslim refugee population in Grand Rapids. Specifically, they work with people who have recently come to Christ. They aim to walk alongside them and disciple them in this new journey. Pray for Hany and Natalie for strengthened relationships and ongoing opportunities to share the gospel.