

This prayer guide is to help us pray and cherish Christ and his work on the cross today. Join us for a Zoom call at 3pm to pray with others as we remember Jesus' love for us in that *"while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Rom 3:23).

## READINGS FOR CORPORATE PRAYER AND FASTING | ZOOM CALL AT 3PM

### NOON | DARKNESS OVER THE LAND

READING: *"And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour."* -Mark 15:33

EXPLANATION: 15:33. Jesus hung on the cross for three hours in the daylight (9 A.M. till noon) and then **at the sixth hour** (noon) total **darkness engulfed the whole land until the ninth hour** (3 P.M.) The Darkness was a sign of God's judgment on human sin (cf. Isa. 5:25–30; Amos 8:9–10; Micah 3:5–7; Zeph. 1:14–15) which was placed on Jesus (cf. Isa. 53:5–6; 2 Cor. 5:21). The darkness visualized what Jesus' cry ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?") expressed (The Bible Knowledge Commentary).

PRAYER: 2-3 people

- Praise the Father for putting His wrath upon the Son.
- Thank the Father for dealing justly with sin.
- Praise Jesus for taking the sin of man upon himself.
- Thank Jesus for being forsaken for a time.
- Praise Jesus for purchasing us so that we can walk in the light, not darkness.
- Pray for those still under God's judgment who are in darkness.

### NOON-3PM | THE CURTAIN TORN IN TWO

READING: *"And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom."* -Mark 15:38

EXPLANATION: 15:38. Simultaneous with Jesus' death **the curtain (veil) of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom**. The passive verb and the direction of the tear indicate that this was God's action. It was no doubt observed and reported by the priests (cf. Acts 6:7) who at that moment were conducting the Jewish evening sacrifice. **It was a sign that Jesus' death ended the need for repeated sacrifices for sins, and opened a new and living way of free and direct access to God** (Heb. 6:19–20; 9:6–14; 10:19–22) (The Bible Knowledge Commentary).

PRAYER: 2-3 people

- Praise God for direct and free access to Him!
- Praise God for our inability to tear the curtain ourselves. He tore it from top to bottom.

### 3pm | "At the ninth hour" Jesus says, "it is finished" and gave up his spirit.

READING: *"34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 35 And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." 36 And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." 37 And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And*

*the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"*" -Mark 15:34-39

EXPLANATION: 15:37. Jesus' **loud cry** (Luke 23:46) before He **breathed His last** indicated that He did not die the ordinary death of one who was crucified (cf. Mark 15:39). Normally such a person suffered extreme exhaustion for a long period (often two or three days) and then lapsed into a coma before dying. But Jesus was fully conscious to the end; His death came voluntarily and suddenly. This accounts for Pilate's surprise (cf. v. 44) (The Bible Knowledge Commentary).

PRAYER: 2-3 people

- Praise Jesus for voluntarily/willingly giving up his life for you and I.
- Praise Jesus for dying in our place for our sins.

## CLOSING SONGS OF PRAISE

### Jesus Paid It All

And I hear the Savior say  
Thy strength indeed is small  
Child of weakness watch and pray  
Find in Me thine all in all

'Cause 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 pow'r and Thine alone  
Can change the leper's spots  
And melt the heart of stone

And when before the throne  
I stand in Him complete  
Jesus died my soul to save  
My lips shall still repeat  
CCLI Song # 4689508

### There Is A Fountain

There is a fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains (3x)

And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains

The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in his day  
And there may I though vile as he  
Wash all my sins away (3x)  
And there may I though vile as he  
Wash all my sins away

Dear dying Lamb Thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its pow'r  
Till all the ransomed Church of God  
Be saved to sin no more (3x)  
Till all the ransomed Church of God  
Be saved to sin no more

E'er since by faith I saw the stream  
Thy flowing wounds supply  
Redeeming love has been my theme  
And shall be till I die (3x)  
Redeeming love has been my theme  
And shall be till I die

When this poor lisp'ing stamm'ring tongue  
Lies silent in the grave  
Then in a nobler sweeter song  
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save (3)  
Then in a nobler sweeter song  
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save  
CCLI Song # 27707

