

The Gathering,



This prayer guide is to help you pray and cherish Christ and his work on the cross today. We encourage you to set aside personal time to read through the significant events of Christ's last day. Then, join us corporately over Zoom to read and pray through his last hours. Scriptures are organized by chronological events of the crucifixion and are mostly taken from Mark's Gospel.

READINGS FOR *PERSONAL* PRAYER AND FASTING | BEFORE 3PM

EARLY MORNING | JESUS' TRIALS, SENTENCE AND JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

READING: Mark 14:53-15:22

EXPLANATION: Jesus' trial before the Roman political authorities also had three hearings: **1.** An initial interrogation by Pilate (cf. Matt. 27:2, 11–14; Mark 15:1b–5; Luke 23:1–5; John 18:28–38); **2.** An interrogation by Herod Antipas (cf. Luke 23:5–12); **3.** A final arraignment before Pilate, Barabbas' release, and the crucifixion verdict (cf. Matt. 27:15–26; Mark 15:6–20; Luke 23:13–25; John 18:39–19:16). Before the Sanhedrin Jesus was condemned for blasphemy under Jewish law, but here He was tried for treason under Roman law. On both occasions He was sentenced to die, in conformity with God's will (cf. Mark 10:33–34) (Bible Knowledge Commentary).

PRAYER:

- Praise God for his will accomplished.
- Praise God for his foreknowledge and plans.

MID-MORNING | JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED AT THE "THIRD HOUR"

READING: Mark 15:24-32

EXPLANATION: Their words "*He saved others*" refer to His healing miracles, which they could not deny (cf. 5:34; 6:56; 10:52). But they ridiculed Him because He seemed powerless to save Himself. Ironically their words expressed a profound spiritual truth. **If Jesus was to save others, delivering them from the power of sin, then He could not save Himself from the sufferings and death appointed to Him by God** (cf. 8:31) (Bible Knowledge Commentary).

PRAYER:

- Thank Jesus for His prayer for his enemies, of whom I was once one.
- Praise Jesus for not saving himself from the sufferings and death appointed to Him by God.

LATE MORNING | JESUS TENDS TO HIS MOTHER AND TALKS TO THE THEIVES

READING: John 19:25-27; Matthew 27:38-44

EXPLANATION: The anguish of Jesus' mother fulfilled a prophecy of Simeon: "*A sword will pierce your own soul too*" (Luke 2:35). **Seeing her sorrow Jesus honored His mother by consigning her into the care of John, the beloved disciple** (Bible Knowledge Commentary).

PRAYER:

- Praise the Savoir Jesus Christ for caring for His own mother during a time of extreme suffering.

- Praise Jesus for being concerned for others salvation while hanging on the cross.
- Praise Jesus for providing forgiveness of sins to those who ask by faith.

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.

In Christ Alone,

Peter Leeper
Mike Newman

