

Holy WEEK GUIDE

On your own, or with your family...

MONDAY

Scripture: Matthew 22:34-40
Meditation: "Perfectly Love"

We pray as often as we meet, that we might "perfectly love you." Indeed, we have been commanded from the beginning, to love you with all our hearts and all our souls and all our minds and all our strength...

We do not now come to pretend before you, but to confess that we do not, as we are, love you perfectly;

we do not keep your commands; we do not order our lives by your purpose; we do not tilt toward you as our deepest affection...

Lead us past our shabby compromises and our cheap devotion; lead us into singleness of vision and purity of heart, that we may will one thing, and answer back in love to your great love to us.



Let us bask in your freedom to be fully yours, and so trusting, fully our own. We pray through the Lord Jesus who loved you singularly, perfectly, fully—to the end

Walter Brueggemann Prayers for a Privileged People

Choose one way to show love to someone else today. Write a letter. Phone a friend. Serve a family member.

TUESDAY

Scripture: Mark 14: 10-21
Meditation: "Surely Not I?"

Surely. I would never betray you, never deny you. Surely? Beloved, give me the faith to doubt my righteousness. Give me the assurance to question, to examine myself honestly, to ask. Give me the confidence to wonder how I might betray your perfect love, to see.

Give me grace to confess how my promises are broken, my heart broken. Give me the peace to be troubled by my smugness, and repent.

Open my eyes to see that you see, you know, and knowing, you keep right on eating with me.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes



Throughout the day, pray this ancient breath prayer several times...

(inhale) Jesus Christ, Son of God, (exhale) have mercy on me, a sinner.

WEDNESDAY

Scripture: Matthew 26:30-35a, 57-58, 69-75
Meditation: "Greatness Redefined"

Why did you wash their feet? I don't understand, it makes no sense. Why did you do something so demeaning, so distasteful, when you did not have to?

Why humble yourself and wash the feet of your own disciples? You are the Messiah, it makes no sense for you, of all people, to do something that should be done by the least of all people, not by the greatest.

It is not what we want our Messiahs to do. Unless...unless we have got it wrong and that, somehow this is a

measure of what Messiah means? Not that it is defined in greatness but that somehow, in your world the first will be last, and the greatest, least and servant of all?

But if we are to follow you, does it mean that we must follow your example too? Are you suggesting that we too should make ourselves humble? That we must wash the feet of the people whom we would rather ignore, or scapegoat, or deride?

Must we too become the servants of the least among us? the refugee, the disabled, the homeless, the addicted, the anti-social, the child? Was that what all of this was about?

To try and put us in our rightful place, not at the center of our own world, but at the center of yours, where we are no longer the most important person? Is that it?

Were you trying to teach us this simple truth that other people, all other people, should matter too?

Is that why you washed their feet?

Nigel Varndell



Today when you wash your hands, envision Christ washing them for you. Receive Christ's tender mercy.

THURSDAY

Scripture: Matthew 26:17-30; 36-56
Meditation: "Invitation to the Table"

This is for you, but it may change you from one who is anxiously concerned about their own redemption into one who knows that Christ's body is the earth and all who walk upon it, are one in Him

into knowing that we are not redeemed by our being good but by our being connected into knowing that daring to eat at the table of Jesus Christ has unimaginable consequences.

So come, come to be made whole, and to participate in the work of making us one with Him and each other.

Ann Siddall



Join us for virtual Maundy Thursday worship at 7pm this evening on our church website, YouTube, or Facebook. Have on hand bread and juice, or similar elements for our virtual Lord's Supper. You will be able to view the service later if you cannot join us at 7pm.

FRIDAY

Scripture: Matthew 27:15-56
Meditation: "Pain"

Out of the depths we cry: "Where are you, God?" Our pain is overtaking us. Fear is crowding out hope. Tears are flowing from a place too deep for words. Numbed by anxiety, paralyzed by confusion, we wrestle with what we believe. We even refuse to be comforted. Still, the bruises in our hearts cry for love's healing. We ache for you to enter our suffering. Give us one small mercy, so we will know you are with us. Ease us into the healing of our pain.

*Sharlande Sledge
Prayers and Litanies For the
Christian Seasons*



Take a walk today. Reflect on Jesus carrying his cross. Allow Jesus to walk with you.

SATURDAY

Scripture: Matthew 27:57-66
Meditation: "Waiting"

Look upon us gently, Lord, for waiting is not our forte. So many other things are... things like moving ahead, fixing what's wrong, planning what's next, diagnosing the problem, cramming more into a day than one person can possibly do before the sun goes down.

But waiting... when we are waiting for the light to shine, when we are waiting for the Word, when we are waiting for a wound to heal, nothing in all the world is harder than waiting.

So, in your mercy, Lord, wait with us. Be our very present help in waiting.

Heal our frenzy. Calm our fears. Comfort those who at this very minute are with every anxious breath and thought waiting for they know-not-what.

Transform our in-the-meantime into your time, while we wait with each other, sit with each other, pray each other into hope, surrounded by your presence, even in the darkness. Especially in the darkness.

*Sharlande Sledge
Prayers and Litanies For the
Christian Seasons*



Beginning with two minutes of deep breathing, spend five minutes in silent prayer.

H E I S R I S E N

Easter

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We are so grateful for
and we count on your

FAITHFUL
giving