

Prayer Watch



St. Philip's
EPISCOPAL

INTRODUCTION

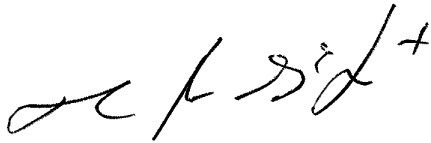
Thank you for participating in the Prayer Watch. For centuries, Christians have gathered around the “altar of repose”, the presence of Jesus in the consecrated bread and wine, to pray and symbolically “keep watch” with in the Garden of Gethsemane.

While we have created the altar of repose in our narthex for this purpose, the practice of keeping watch with our Lord can be done anywhere, and at any time. Just as the disciples were not alone that night, you will also be joined by Christians around the world who too are praying and keeping watch with Jesus.

We have created this guide in the hopes that it will draw you closer to Jesus’ own journey to the cross, to a deeper understanding of the cross and its saving power in your life, and to bring you ever closer in your relationship to him.

This booklet contains scriptures that will be read aloud at designated times (p.3) or they can be read on your own. We’ve included additional scriptures, prayers and reflections to guide your time during the watch.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Gilton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small cross at the end of the final stroke.

The Rev. Cn. Michael Gilton

THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

JESUS' PRAYER FOR BELIEVERS

“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me.

I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”


(John 17:6-26, ESV)


SCRIPTURE READINGS


The scripture readings commence with Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he requested his disciples to keep watch with him. They culminate in the depiction of Jesus' crucifixion and death.


As you keep vigil tonight, free your heart from worldly distractions and instead, seek spiritual communion with the Lord through prayer and the contemplation of the accounts detailing Jesus' final hours, which are included in the readings listed here.


You can choose to read from any or all of the Gospels listed below, each offering its own account of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Pause between readings to reflect and meditate on the profound significance of the passages you've just read.


-  ***Jesus prays in Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives***
Matthew 26:36-46 Mark 14:32-42 Luke 22:39-46


-  ***Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus***
Matthew 26:47-56 Mark 14:43-50 Luke 22:47-53 John 18:1-11


-  ***Jesus Before Caiaphas and the Council***
Matthew 26:57-68 Mark 14:53-65 Luke 22:66-71 John 18:12-14, 19-24

-  ***Peter Denies Jesus***
Matthew 26:69-75 Mark 14:66-72 Luke 22:54-62 John 18:15-18, 25-27

-  ***Jesus is Delivered to Pilate***
Matthew 27:1-14 Mark 15:1-5 Luke 22:63-65, 23:1-16 John 18:28-38

-  ***Barabbas is Released, Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified, Jesus is Mocked***
Matthew 27:15-31 Mark 15:6-20 Luke 23:18-25 John 18:39—19:16

-  ***The Crucifixion and The Death of Jesus***
Matthew 27:32-44 Mark 15:21-32 Luke 23:26-43 John 19:17-27

-  ***Jesus is Buried***
Matthew 27:45-66 Mark 15:33-47 Luke 23:44-56 John 19:28-42

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

The Book of Common Prayer is a liturgical resource for the Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, which also contains the Psalms, Devotions and many prayers.

The Book of Common Prayer can be found in the pew racks inside of the Sanctuary, downloaded at www.episcopalchurch.org/book-common-prayer or viewed online at www.bcponline.org.

Below is a list of suggested readings from The Book of Common Prayer.

Prayers of the People (Form II pp. 385-386, *et. al.*)

Psalm Readings

Psalm 12 (p.597)

Psalm 62 (p. 669)

Psalm 16 (p. 599)

Psalm 69 (p. 679)

Psalm 22 (p.610)

Psalm 72 (p. 685)

Psalm 23 (p. 612)

Psalm 91 (p. 719)

Psalm 27 (p. 617)

Psalm 103 (p. 733)

Psalm 31 (p. 622)

Psalm 118 (760)

Psalm 37 (p. 633)

Psalm 121 (p. 779)

Psalm 41 (p. 641)

Psalm 130 (p. 784)

Psalm 46 (p. 649)

Psalm 139 (p. 794)

Prayers and Thanksgivings (pp. 810-841)

SELF-EXAMINATION AND REFLECTION

You were on the heart and mind of Jesus the night he prayed to the Father. As he faced suffering death, Jesus interceded for you then, just as he does now. What suffering are you experiencing today? Pray Jesus' sacrifice into your suffering.

Simon of Cyrene helped bear the weight of Jesus' Cross; his strength was needed. How is Jesus your strength? How is the Gospel the greatest help to shouldering your life's burdens?

In his final moments, Jesus prays for those who persecute him. He asks God to forgive them, even while he's suffering. Who is it that you need to forgive?

The repentant criminal offered words of faith and Jesus responded by promising him a place in heaven. What does this mean for us?

Sit in silence. Empty your mind of all things of the world and use this time to meditate and focus solely on God.

What prayer requests do you have for Jesus this night?

CLOSING PRAYERS

AT DUSK

O GRACIOUS LIGHT (p. 118)

*O gracious Light,
pure brightness of everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!*

*Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.*

NIGHT PRAYERS (p. 133, 134)

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.*