

Holy Thursday Watch and Pray Vigil

9th April 2020



We begin our prayer, In the name of the Father...

God, come to my assistance.

Oh Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father...

Chant:

*Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.*

Short Reflection

Transform us first, Lord, that we might transform this world,

Through your love and your power.

If we had a fraction of the faith in you that you have in us,

Then this world would be transformed, Lord.

If we showed a fraction of the love that you show to us,

Then this world would be transformed, Lord.

If we possessed a fraction of the patience that you display with us,

Then this world would be transformed, Lord.

If we shared just a portion of the blessings that we have received from you,

Then this world would be transformed, Lord.

If we showed as much trust in others as you have shown in us,

Then this world would be transformed, Lord.

If we claimed just a fraction of the power you promised to your Church,

Then this world would be transformed, Lord.

Transform us first, Lord, that we might transform this world

Through your love and your power.

Opening Prayer - Thank you Lord God for the opportunity to gather together in these uncertain times and for the freedom to be amongst our community of faith in the warmth of your embrace.

Thank you that in gathering and our journey together we can put aside the uncertainties of this world and rest upon the certainties of the Kingdom for your promises are not changeable but immovable and eternal.

Thank you that we can bring to your feet all the hurts and fears that trouble us and leave them there knowing that your strength and assurance are all that we require.

Thank you that as we draw near in prayer we are transported from a world of concerns and fears to a place where we can be at peace in your presence find healing, wholeness and refreshment.

Thank you, Lord God, for the opportunity to gather together as one family of faith. **Amen**

(Silence)

Chant: Wait for the Lord whose day is near, Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

Psalmody (*recited half the assembly on alternate verses*)

Antiphon (leader): I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I love the Lord, for the Lord has heard the cry of my appeal.

The Lord was attentive to me, on the day when I called.

*They surrounded me, the snares of death, with the anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress. I called on the Lord's name.*

How gracious is the Lord, and just, our God has compassion.

The Lord protects the simple hearts; I was helpless so God saved me.

*Turn back, my soul, to your rest for the Lord has been good,
and has kept my soul from death, my feet from stumbling.*

Glory to the Father...

Antiphon (all): I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

(Silence)

Chant:

In our darkness there is no darkness with you, o Lord, The deepest night is clear as the day.

Reading John 15:9-13 “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

(Silence)

Chant: In manus tuas, Pater, commendo spiritum meum, (x2)

(Short silence)

We bring our prayers

On this holy night we join together as the body of Christ and we commit ourselves to love and serve one another. On this holy night, then, let us pray for the church and all humankind.

Chant: *O Lord hear my prayer, O lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer, O lord hear my prayer Come and listen to me*

God of love, hear the cry of those who yearn for love; fractured families, broken homes neglected, unwanted, alone. God of love, hear our prayer. **O Lord...**

God of justice, hear the cry of those who yearn for justice; persecuted and oppressed, exploited, ill-treated, broken. God of justice, hear our prayer. **O Lord...**

God of peace hear the cry of those who yearn for peace; in battle zones and broken states, frightened, fearful, anxious. God of peace, hear our prayer. **O Lord...**

God of healing hear the cry of those who yearn for healing; physical and spiritual hurting, weakened, depressed God of healing, hear our prayer. **O Lord...**

God of mercy hear the cry of those who yearn for mercy; convicted, in need of your Grace, contrite, humble, bowed down. God of mercy, hear our prayer. **O Lord...**

May we all know the peace of God, the love of God, the justice of God, the healing and mercy of God this day and all days. **Amen**

(Short silence)

Nunc Dimittis

Antiphon (leader): Save us Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace.

At last all powerful Master, You give leave to your servant To go in peace, according to your promise. For my eyes have seen your salvation Which you have prepared for all nations, The light to enlighten the Gentiles And give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory to the Father...

Antiphon (all): *Save us Lord, while we are awake; protect us while we sleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace.*

Concluding Prayer

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith and a generosity of service that gives without counting cost. A life overflowing with Grace poured out from the One who gave everything. That we might show the power of love to a broken world and share the truth from a living Word. Lord, grant us simplicity of faith and a yearning to share it. **Amen**

We pray for all those in our country and throughout the world suffering from the Corona Virus. May its victims and their families be strengthened by the support of our community of faith and restored soon to full health. We also pray for our leaders and medical personnel who deal with the virus. May we keep calm and may we join together in solidarity with care and compassion to tackle this emergency. This we ask in confidence through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Chant: Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul. Who leads me into life.

Thank you for gathering and celebrating with us tonight.