

# TEACH US TO *Pray*

## An Order of Worship for the Home

Maundy Thursday  
April 1, 2021

*This service is written for two speakers. Ideally, family members can speak and declare God's grace to one another following this format. For those who live alone, this worship outline can be followed with a brother or sister in Christ over the phone. You may call on a friend to fill this role, or your elder or pastor can worship with you by phone.*

*There is an "offering prayer" included in this outline. As we continue our Covid adjustments related to gathering, please continue to worship through giving. You can mail offering envelopes and checks to Calvary or visit [www.calvaryslz.org](http://www.calvaryslz.org) to give online.*

### The Litany

1st: O Lord,

**2nd: have mercy.**

1st: O Christ,

**2nd: have mercy.**

1st: O Lord,

**2nd: have mercy.**

1st: O Christ,

**2nd: hear us.**

1st: God the Father in heaven,

**2nd: have mercy.**

1st: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**2nd: have mercy.**

1st: God the Holy Spirit,

**2nd: have mercy.**

1st: Be gracious to us.

**2nd: Spare us, good Lord.**

1st: Be gracious to us.

**2nd: Help us, good Lord.**

1st: From all sin, from all error, from all evil;

From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;

From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;

From lightening and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

**2nd: Good Lord, deliver us.**

1st: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;  
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat;  
by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;  
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy  
Spirit, the Comforter:

**2nd: Help us, good Lord.**

1st: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death;  
and in the day of judgement:

**2nd: Help us, good Lord.**

1st: We poor sinners implore You

**2nd: to hear us, O Lord.**

1st: To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and  
ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your  
wholesome Word and to sustain thyem in holy living;  
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of  
truth all who have erred and are deceived;  
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest;  
and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**2nd: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

1st: To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort  
and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

**2nd: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

1st: To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord  
and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;  
To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect  
our magistrates and all our people;  
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to  
protect and guide all who travel;  
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing  
happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide  
for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**2nd: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

1st: To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**2nd: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

1st: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God.

**2nd: We implore You to hear us.**

1st: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**2nd: have mercy.**

1st: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**2nd: have mercy.**

1st: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**2nd: grant us Your peace.**

1st: O Christ,

**2nd: hear us.**

1st: O Lord,

**2nd: have mercy.**

1st: O Christ,

**2nd: have mercy.**

1st: O Lord,

**2nd: have mercy. Amen.**

### **Matthew 26:36-46**

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."<sup>40</sup> And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup> Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." <sup>43</sup> And again he came and found them sleeping,

for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

## Psalm 6

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger,  
nor discipline me in your wrath.

<sup>2</sup> Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;  
heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.

<sup>3</sup> My soul also is greatly troubled.  
But you, O Lord—how long?

<sup>4</sup> Turn, O Lord, deliver my life;  
save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

<sup>5</sup> For in death there is no remembrance of you;  
in Sheol who will give you praise?

<sup>6</sup> I am weary with my moaning;  
every night I flood my bed with tears;  
I drench my couch with my weeping.

<sup>7</sup> My eye wastes away because of grief;  
it grows weak because of all my foes.

<sup>8</sup> Depart from me, all you workers of evil,  
for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord has heard my plea;  
the Lord accepts my prayer.

<sup>10</sup> All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;  
they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

## The Lord's Prayer: The Sixth Petition (Luther's Small Catechism)

### And lead us not into temptation

*What does this mean?*

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice.

Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

### Message

#### Lead us not into temptation.

#### Lead us not into temptation.

That's a fitting prayer for Maundy Thursday. Temptations abound among the disciples of Jesus. We see the ugliness of temptation throughout the stories of this night.

First, there is the temptation to action. Judas fell into this temptation when he decided to betray his rabbi to the Jewish authorities. We can speculate about motives and whether it was money, or revenge, or fear, or pride which drove Judas to make that terrible choice. In the end, it doesn't matter. It was wrong. It was a temptation which overtook him and drove his actions. His was a temptation to action.

There's also a temptation to inaction. This was the temptation the disciples faced while in the garden with Jesus. They succumbed to the temptation of ease. They were explicitly told to stay awake and pray, but they just couldn't, or they just wouldn't. If Judas was tempted to sinful action, Peter, James, and John were tempted to sinful inaction. What were they thinking as they fell asleep?

*It won't really matter. It's not crucial after all.*

*There's always tomorrow.*

*Is this really my responsibility anyway?*

Yet, in stark contrast to disciples who fall into temptation, we see Jesus. He did not fall into temptation. In fact, he went further than that. He didn't just avoid sin; he

overcame sin by his sacrifice. Even while acknowledging his betrayal, Jesus offered a meal of peace. He established a new covenant between human beings and God; a covenant ratified by his own body and blood. At the same time that Judas was betraying him, Jesus was offering forgiveness for every betrayal.

Likewise, while his disciples were sleeping instead of praying, Jesus was offering to serve them. While they displayed their lack of commitment, Jesus committed himself to the cross. Their willpower gave way to the temptation of ease as they fell asleep in the cool of the night. Jesus was sweating in agony during that same night and still prayed to his Father "your will be done." He gave himself to the cross at the same time that his closest friends gave themselves to the allure of comfort.

"Lead us not into temptation" is not a prayer intended just for the 12 disciples back in Bible times. It's a prayer given to us as well. Temptation is not something we read about in other people's lives. Temptation is something you and I are faced with every day.

Like Judas, we are tempted to do evil. We are tempted to take actions which are contrary to God's calling on our lives. We're tempted to use language which hurts and demeans. Sometimes we justify this as "only a joke" or claim "I was just frustrated." We're tempted to make choices based on what's best for ourselves rather than what would serve our neighbors. We tell ourselves our actions are no worse than so-and-so, and likely better than most people we know.

We can only guess at what motivated Judas, but our guesses are probably not far off because we have the same motivations for our own sins. We're driven by money, or revenge, or fear, or pride. We shape a story to our advantage. We take more than our fair share. We get back at others. We refuse to share from the gifts God has given to us.

Not only do we actively sin, but we also fall for the temptation of inaction. Like the disciples falling asleep in the garden, we're tempted toward ease and comfort. We fail to do the good that we might. We hear about black and Asian neighbors hurting from racism, but we don't act to help; we don't even think to stay awake and pray for them. We can describe the people on our block according to their cars and

yards, but we've never taken the time to learn their interests, backgrounds, concerns, or maybe even their names.

We're called to care for our neighbors, and we know Jesus told a story about a Samaritan to show that outsiders are those neighbors, but it's easier to spend all of our time with insiders. We don't attempt to make new friends. We don't look for opportunities to meet new people. In our minds we have the same thoughts the disciples may have had in the garden:

*It won't really matter. It's not crucial after all.*

*There's always tomorrow.*

*Is this really my responsibility anyway?*

And so we pray "lead us not into temptation." We need to pray this because temptation in our lives is very real. We're tempted to sinful action. We're tempted to sinful inaction. Thankfully, just as Jesus provided for his disciples back then, he also provides for his disciples today.

You may have betrayed your Lord by choosing sin, yet he has not betrayed you. He established a new covenant promise, and he's offered this to you. This covenant offers an exchange – your sin for his grace. You bring your need for forgiveness, and Jesus fills that need by his body and blood. You come hungry and thirsty for grace, and he provides bread and wine which bring grace, peace, and new life to you.

Likewise, in response to your inaction, Jesus resolved to take action. You may have chosen ease over serving, but in response your Lord chose sacrifice. His suffering and death completes every action you've left incomplete. Every opportunity you've left unattended has been made perfect in his crucifixion. As with the disciples in the garden, Jesus chose to do this for you before you were even aware.

*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8)*

**Lead us not into temptation.**

What did Luther write about this?

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

That victory was secured by the death of our Savior. That victory is celebrated in the meal he's given to us. That victory is yours in Christ.

Indeed, Lord, lead us not into temptation. Amen.

### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Offering Prayer**

*If you have an offering present as you worship, you may place your hands over it during the offering prayer.*

Reader 1: With thankful hearts we receive from you, O Lord.

Reader 2: With thankful hearts we respond.

Reader 1: Receive our thanks and praise.

Reader 2: Receive our offerings.

Together: Receive us as your own. Amen.

## **Mark 14:12-26**

<sup>12</sup>And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>13</sup>And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, <sup>14</sup>and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>15</sup>And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." <sup>16</sup>And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. <sup>17</sup>And when it was evening, he came with the twelve.<sup>18</sup>And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." <sup>19</sup>They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" <sup>20</sup>He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. <sup>21</sup>For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." <sup>23</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it.<sup>24</sup>And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup>Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup>And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

## **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 forever and ever. Amen.

## Stripping of the Altar

The stripping of the altar reminds us of the humiliation as Jesus was put on trial, beaten, stripped, and whipped prior to his crucifixion. God allowed all dignity and honor to be taken from himself as Jesus suffered for us. The readings we will use in the sanctuary are included here, along with notes indicating the removal of all ornaments from the front of the sanctuary.

*During the first reading, communion elements and vessels are removed.*

### **Mark 14:26-31**

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>27</sup> And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' <sup>28</sup> But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." <sup>29</sup> Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." <sup>30</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." <sup>31</sup> But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

*During the second reading, altar books and stands are removed.*

### **Mark 14:32-42**

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup> And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." <sup>35</sup> And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." <sup>37</sup> And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? <sup>38</sup> Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>39</sup> And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. <sup>40</sup> And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. <sup>41</sup> And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man

is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

*During the third reading, all candles are extinguished, and decorative lights are turned off. Altar candles are removed.*

### **Mark 14:43-52**

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. <sup>44</sup>Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." <sup>45</sup>And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. <sup>46</sup>And they laid hands on him and seized him. <sup>47</sup>But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. <sup>48</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup>Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." <sup>50</sup>And they all left him and fled.

<sup>51</sup>And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, <sup>52</sup>but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

*During the fourth reading, the purple drapes are brought down.*

### **Mark 14:53-65**

And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. <sup>54</sup>And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. <sup>55</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. <sup>56</sup>For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. <sup>57</sup>And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, <sup>58</sup>"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" <sup>59</sup>Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup>And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" <sup>61</sup>But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" <sup>62</sup>And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right

hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”<sup>63</sup> And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? <sup>64</sup>You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. <sup>65</sup>And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophesy!” And the guards received him with blows.

*During the fifth reading, the purple dressing on the altar is removed.*

### **Mark 14:66-72**

And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, <sup>67</sup>and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” <sup>68</sup>But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. <sup>69</sup>And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” <sup>70</sup>But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” <sup>71</sup>But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” <sup>72</sup>And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

*Finally, the purple dressing on the lectern is removed.  
The service closes in silence.*

*As applicable, please share this resource with others who would benefit. An electronic version is available at [www.calvaryslz.org](http://www.calvaryslz.org). We can also add friends to our mailing list if that is preferred.*

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