

TAIZÉ PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY



SET UP:

The focus for this prayer is the cross – think of how you will position it in the context of the whole church space and its visibility and accessibility to people during and after the service. Think also of the lighting in the church that will help create a prayerful atmosphere & mood. Within the following prayer there is opportunity to light a candle beside the cross – if being done, this needs to be set up and delegated ahead of time.

MINISTRIES WITHIN THE PRAYER:

- *This prayer can be led by a lay member of the community or a member of the parish team.*
- *Music ministers add a great richness to this liturgy – through use of either a choir, group of cantors or a lone cantor with accompanists.*
- *Two to three readers are also needed for this liturgy.*
- *One or two people may also be needed to distribute a worship aid or hymn sheet to people as they arrive.*
- *A group in the parish may take on board setting up the space for the prayer and also tidying up after the liturgy itself.*

OPENING CHANT: *Begin by singing the opening chant quietly as people are coming into the church and settling into the prayer space. Bring the chant to a crescendo and back down to quietness.*

“Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom”

OPENING GREETING:

We gather on this most holy of days to remember the passion of our Lord. May we be united in our prayer – praying for our own needs and the needs of the entire world who wait and watch for Christ.

We mark ourselves with the sign of our salvation, In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

READING: John 19:17-30

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, ‘Jesus of Nazareth,*the King of the Jews.’ Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, ‘Do not write, “The King of the Jews”, but, “This man said, I am King of the Jews.” ’ Pilate answered, ‘What I have written I have written.’ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.’ This was to fulfil what the scripture says, ‘They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.’ And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

CHANT: *Within our darkest night or Stay with me, remain here with me, watch & pray, watch & pray*
(During the singing of the chant a single candle beside the Cross is lit.)

PSALM: *The following is led by the prayer leader or another reader – alternatively a music minister might lead the singing of Psalm 21 from the Good Friday liturgy.*

Psalm 21:

Leader: My God, my God why have you forsaken me?

You are far from my plea and the cry of my distress.

O my God, I call by day and you give no reply: I call by night and I find no peace.

All: But I am a worm and no man, the butt of men, laughing stock of the people. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. "He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend"

Leader: Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet, and lay me in the dust of death.

All: I can count every one of my bones. These people stare at me and gloat; they divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe.

Leader: O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! Rescue my soul from the sword, my life from the grip of these dogs. Save my life from the jaws of these lions, my poor soul from the horns of these oxen.

All: I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. "You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.

Leader: For he has never despised nor scorned the poverty of the poor. From him he has not hidden his face, but he heard the poor man when he cried."

All: You are my praise in the great assembly. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May their hearts live for ever and ever.

Leader: All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him, for the kingdom is the Lord's; he is ruler of the nations. They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

All: And my soul shall live for him, my children shall serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to people's yet unborn: "These things the Lord has done."

SILENCE:

INTERCESSIONS

Sung Response: 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...
(Taizé)



Let us pray to our redeemer who suffered for us, was buried, and rose from the dead. R. Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord and master, for us you became obedient even to death; -keep us faithful to God's will in the darkness of our lives. R.

Jesus, our life, by dying on the cross you destroyed hell and death; - Grant that we may die with you and rise with you in glory. R.

Christ our king, you were the scorn of the people, a worm not a man; - teach us to tread your path of humility. R.

Jesus, our hope, you stretched out your hands on the cross to embrace all ages of humanity; - gather all God's scattered children into the kingdom of salvation. R.

OUR FATHER:

Leader: Together let us stand and pray the words that our saviour gave us: Our Father...

CONCLUDING PRAYER:

LEADER: Lord God, when our world lay in ruins
you raised it up again through your passion and death.
O king of the Friday,
whose limbs were stretched on the cross,
O Lord, who suffered the bruises, the wounds, the loss,
we lay ourselves open to the loving kindness
of your Sacred Heart.
May some fruit from the tree of your passion
fall upon us on this night. **Amen**

CLOSING CHANT: *Ubi caritas et amore, ubi caritas Deus ibi
est*

(as this chant begins the leader goes to the cross and makes a gesture of reverence before returning to the assembly for their own silent prayer or leaving the space...)

FINAL WORDS SUGGESTED FOR THE WORSHIP AID:

Our prayer together around the cross is ended. You may wish to remain in silence and prayer. You may wish to depart quietly or you may wish to come to the cross to make a gesture of silently entrusting to Christ all of your burdens, as well as the suffering and burdens of the whole human family.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS OF CHANTS FOR YOU USE DURING OR AFTER THIS PRAYER:

*Our Darkness
Adoramus te Christe
Nada de Turbe
De Noche Iremos
Crucem Tuam
In Manus Tuas
Nunc Dimittis*

All the above mentioned can be viewed and listened to on the following Taizé website: www.taize.fr