

Retreat Where You Are
"Weeping"



Gathering Prayer:

Gracious God
Meet with us, in this oasis place;
This time set apart to watch and pray,
To listen and learn from you.
Help us to set aside every worrisome detail of our living
That in our waiting on you
We might know you more fully
And be blessed.
Through Jesus Christ. Amen

Read Luke 19:41-44 NIV

[41] As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it [42] and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace---but now it is hidden from your eyes. [43] The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. [44] They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognise the time of God's coming to you."

Silence

Listen to the Reflection:

"Weeping"

Lament. The grief of the Saviour, the Soon Coming King, as His first tears of the week are poured out over the Holy City. Jerusalem would come to ruin as it had in the Exile, when the faithlessness of her people had led to its destruction. Once more, as the people turned their faces from God, desolation would be upon them. This is why Jesus has come. To those who sit in desperate yearning for hope, He rides into Jerusalem, the friend of sinners and the Redeemer of the World.

Lament. The grief of the Saviour, the Soon Coming King as He weeps over the potential of the World He spoke into being. The Prince of Peace whose presence is overlooked by the lovers of corruption, the purveyors of injustice, the potentates whose grip on power is fuelled by populist politics and easy wins. This is why Jesus has come: to make peace in the hearts of those who see him, who know him, who turn to him in their need.

Lament. The grief of the Saviour, the Soon Coming King as He weeps for the coming generations. The Lord of Years, he weeps for the children, the women, the ones who would never see Him. His time was coming and life in all its fullness was within their grasp, yet deep rooted systems of self-serving religion had denuded the Holy City of her very Holiness. Rich men with powerful voices had taken the riches to themselves. This is why Jesus has come: To restore religion to the people. To bring to life the Stone Tablets of old - with living Words and New Covenant.

Lament. The grief of the Saviour, the Soon Coming King as He weeps for the loss of the Temple. God's Holy Dwelling place is taken by bandits, proud and politically astute priests who watch the Temple coffers grow fat with coin and maintain their good relationships with Rome. There is a remnant, a holy shred of ephod who still lift their eyes to the heavens and their hearts in praise of their Maker. The lonely ones who stand on the watchtower with eyes casting right and left to watch for their Messiah. And Jesus

is on his way, they will leave their watchtowers to join the heartfelt cries of the crowd who still watch for him, who will cry out; "Save us! Save us now! As they raise a loud Hosanna in honour of their King.

Lament. The grief of the Saviour is the wail of anguish that goes out like a trumpet call heralding the arrival of the Soon Coming King. Jerusalem is unaware of this Cavalry advance; this lone horseman who comes to change the world. His steed is the colt and his weaponry an arsenal of prayer and obedience. He leads a vanguard of fishermen and outcasts, women and villagers. Jesus is on his way, and Jerusalem is unprepared for the arrival of her King.

Silence

The Lord's Prayer

Time for you to pray aloud ...

Thank you Lord for meeting us in the middle of the day

Your Grace is sufficient for all my needs.

May our love for you grow day by day.

May our faith lead to service,

May our hope lead to love.

Faith, hope and love will never fail.

Build your church, build your kingdom

Restore the years the locusts have eaten

Lift up the heads of those who are downcast

For your mercies are new every morning.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our day continues, we walk onward with Jesus

Our constant companion on life's journey.

He is our life and our joy

He is our strength and our salvation.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Love of God and

The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

Be with us all forevermore. Amen.

Retreat Where You Are
“Inheritance”



Gathering Prayer:

Gracious God
Meet with us, in this oasis place;
This time set apart to watch and pray,
To listen and learn from you.
Help us to set aside every worrisome detail of our living
That in our waiting on you
We might know you more fully
And be blessed.
Through Jesus Christ. Amen

Read Luke 20:9-19 NIV

Luke 20:9-19 NIV

[9] He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. [10] At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. [11] He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. [12] He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out. [13] “Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’ [14] “But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ [15] So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. “What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? [16] He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When the people heard this, they said, “God forbid!” [17] Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: “ ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’ ? [18] Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” [19] The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

Silence

Listen to the Reflection:

“Inheritance”

Why would you plant a vineyard without looking forward to the fruits of the vine? He hadn’t— and the plan always had been to rent it to competent farmers who would tend it well and nurture it to fruition. These people who were invested in the outcome and excellent in their craft would be good tenants and pay him what was due. His tenant farmers loved the rich and fertile ground they looked after. They loved the quality of the vines and the fruit which would fill them, richly purple and bursting with sweetness and the promise of Good Wine.

The tenant farmers loved their life so much, that they became used to having things their own way. They began to look on the land as being their own, the vines as their own property and no rents were demanded from their profits.

Until the day when the messenger came, excitedly running to the farm office to receive fruits for the owner. Indignant and outraged the farmer in the office knocked the messenger down with an unexpected and admittedly luck blow. Bleeding profusely from his nose, which was swelling hugely, they sent him on his way. The next season, the tenant farmers were prepared. They had trained in street fighting and were ready for the owner’s envoy — hearts set on keeping all of what they deemed ‘their own’, they would defend their property. Sure enough, when the envoy arrived the tenant farmers met him outside the office.

A roundhouse kick to the face and he went down, bleeding. Staggering to his feet, he was swiftly felled as the second farmer executed a textbook elbow drop, leaving little for the third tenant to do other than take the envoy's clothes, shave his head and daub manure on his scalp before sending him on his way.

The third season saw another messenger brave the farm office. The tenants had raised their combat training to a new level and, on sighting the messenger, a spear was launched from the office door, felling him where he stood, the spear quivering as the messenger lay in the dirt. The tenants pulled the spear from his thigh with a 'plop' and dragged the messenger off 'their property' leaving him to stanch his wound at the edge of the road.

This was not good. The owner's land and his vines were effectively captured by the tenants who bristled with entitlement as they coveted the land for which they cared —and its riches. Surely it was theirs by right? Surely the justice of the situation was for them to take the fulness of their labours and to lay proper claim to it forever and always.

Meanwhile, the owner of the vineyard was grieved by the successive seasons of insurrection. His choice was to send his son to the farmers saying, "How can anyone fail to love and honour him?" Yet the rank insubordination was without limit. A plot to kill and take the inheritance to their own benefit was hatched and executed. Executed without pause or regret. Executed on the roadside outside the farm in full view of those who passed by on the other side.

The swift and violent retribution of the Vineyard's owner would be visited upon the tenant farmers. For them no happy ending, chewing on the end of a straw on a rocking chair in their twilight years...

And to your cries of "God Forbid!" See Jesus offer His raised eyebrow, a shake of the head and a reference to the crushing, crashing weight of God's judgement and God's wrath for those who do not see the reality of Jesus, the 'cornerstone' of the true Israel and that the old is indeed travelling to the new.

Silence

The Lord's Prayer

Time for you to pray aloud ...

Thank you Lord for meeting us in the middle of the day

Your Grace is sufficient for all my needs.

May our love for you grow day by day.

May our faith lead to service,

May our hope lead to love.

Faith, hope and love will never fail.

Build your church, build your kingdom

Restore the years the locusts have eaten

Lift up the heads of those who are downcast

For your mercies are new every morning.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our day continues, we walk onward with Jesus

Our constant companion on life's journey.

He is our life and our joy

He is our strength and our salvation.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Love of God and

The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

Be with us all forevermore. Amen.

Retreat Where You Are
"Speaking"



Gathering Prayer:

Gracious God
Meet with us, in this oasis place;
This time set apart to watch and pray,
To listen and learn from you.
Help us to set aside every worrisome detail of our living
That in our waiting on you
We might know you more fully
And be blessed.
Through Jesus Christ. Amen

Read Luke 21:25-37

[25] "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. [26] People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. [27] At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. [28] When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." [29] He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. [30] When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. [31] Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. [32] "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. [33] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. [34] "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. [35] For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. [36] Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." [37] Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, [38] and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.

We are the people of God - One People Listening to Jesus' eternal words speaking life and hope into the chaos and fragmentation of this world. The world roars our with death and destruction and The Fear that would possess our hearts.

Jesus, our Eternal Saviour is the still, small voice of Life and Hope.

We stand in the presence of Jesus and He is our Stronghold, our Fortress, our Shield and our Defender. In His presence we take courage and will not be afraid. We are a people of prayer.

We are a people who see the promises of God answered with a cry of "Yes and Amen" in Jesus. We resist the traps and lures of the world, as we live out of the love of God in Christ Jesus our Saviour. We respond to His voice; to His words of Truth and Love.

The Kingdom of God is Near! We repent. We believe in the Gospel— in the Word of God.

The time is near when Jesus will die a sinner's death and open the Kingdom of Heaven to all who will believe in His Name. The Name of the Lord is Mighty to save.

Let His voice and His presence bring the Oneness of God near to our hearts this Holy Week as we declare that "Jesus is Lord over all the Earth". To the Glory of God our Father. Amen.

Share words of peace.

Time for you to pray aloud: prayers of intercession, for our church, community, country & world.

The Lord is with you

The Lord is also with you.

We look to God

And give the love of our hearts.

We look to each other

Through God's eyes of mercy and grace.

Our love for your Name rings out in all the world.

God of patience and restoration.

God of the waiting-places.

God of the lonely places and the sad places.

God who knows suffering and temptation.

God who lived our human life and remained holy.

Silent Prayers of Penitence:

Hear the words of mercy and grace: "Your sins are forgiven."

Amen, come Lord Jesus.

With the whole of heaven, we praise and glorify God together:

Holy God! Powerful and mighty!

Creation is full of your glory.

Hosanna! Hosanna in highest heaven! Hosanna!

We thank you for Jesus:

Who gathered with his friends for Passover.

Full of love and with an ever-thankful heart

He broke the bread:

"My body, broken and freely given - for all to be free"

Taking the cup and facing the suffering it would hold

He declared the new Way:

"My blood, poured out for all people for the forgiveness of sin."

He calls us to remember his love and his everlasting sacrifice :

Make us One

That the world might believe.

Make us One

As we each receive

The broken bread, a taste of wine.

Pour out the Spirit of God: Holiness and Grace to live in us,

Making us One with Jesus Christ

To love as he loves

To serve as he serves.

We break the bread

The One Body of Christ.

We take the wine

The blood of Christ.

Receive the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus and be thankful.

Thank you for this taste of sacrifice and love.

For gathering around the table together

And departing as family.

We look forward to the day of Glory

when we will share with you in heaven. Amen

Go in peace, the God of peace goes with you.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and

The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all forevermore. Amen.

Retreat Where You Are
"Preparing"

Gathering Prayer:

Gracious God
Meet with us, in this oasis place;
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That in our waiting on you
We might know you more fully
And be blessed.
Through Jesus Christ. Amen



Read Luke 22:7-21 NIV

[7] Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. [8] Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." [9] "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. [10] He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, [11] and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' [12] He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there." [13] They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. [14] When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. [15] And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. [16] For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God." [17] After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. [18] For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." [19] And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." [20] In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. [21] But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.

Silence

Listen to the Reflection:

"Preparing"

We make preparation to sit down and eat together as Jesus and his disciples did on the day of Passover. They had travelled far together and the time was coming when Jesus would lead them into the garden and a new chapter would unfold. For now, the Ages Old memorial of God's saving grace in motion would take place.

We gather on the day when Passover would be eaten, to break bread together and eat for the sustenance of our bodies in company and fellowship with one another. We have prayed and worshipped together in the Holy project of submission to God throughout the past weeks and in the days leading to this mealtime moment. This evening, we will travel to the valley, but now we keep fellowship with Jesus and with each other.

The Passover was the meal to commemorate God's authority over rulers and powers in this world, to remind God's people to be fleet of foot and willing to trust his timing and the opportunity. Our meal together commemorates a year of fellowship and the Lord's presence among us for our Salvation.

We eat together and share in this meal, under the blessing of God and the weight of the portent of Friday's pain.

We eat and remember.

We remain hopeful for New Covenant, even though the wait is overwhelming.
We sit in fellowship, one body with Christ and with Each Other.
We ask that the Holy Spirit is present, among us and in us
As we Take, Eat and Remember. Amen.

We share a simple meal together.

After the meal is cleared we close in prayer:

Thank you Lord for meeting us in the middle of the day

Your Grace is sufficient for all my needs.

May our love for you grow day by day.

May our faith lead to service,

May our hope lead to love.

Faith, hope and love will never fail.

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Our day continues, we walk onward with Jesus

Our constant companion on life's journey.

He is our life and our joy

He is our strength and our salvation.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and

The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all forevermore. Amen.

Go in peace, the God of peace goes with you.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and

The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all forevermore. Amen.