

## 24 Hours of Prayer - Prayer Guide

Maundy Thursday to Good Friday

Let us respond to Jesus' invitation to keep watch with him in his hours of agony, through his arrest, trial, crucifixion, death, and burial.

From Jesus to his disciples...

"Couldn't you stay alert one hour with me? Stay alert and pray so that you won't give in to temptation." - Matthew 26:40

Let us enter prayerfully together, watching and waiting with Christ so that together we can celebrate the joy of the Resurrection. We cannot keep the feast until we have kept the vigil. Use the prayer outline based on the last hours before Christ's crucifixion. Use Luke 22 & 23 to reference Christ's final hours.

Lord Jesus Christ, prepare our hearts to walk with you the rest of the way this Holy Week.

Pause to be still... allow the Holy Spirit to calm your mind and heart.

Draw us to sit with you at the Last Supper where you shared your heart so tenderly with your friends and also faced your betrayer honestly and without malice. Read Matthew 26:20-30. Consider your spot at the table.

Pause and pray for the relationships in your life. Redemption? Renewal?

Help us to stay awake in the Garden of that Dark Night, wrestling with the death and dying that must take place in us in order for your will to come forth. Read Matthew 16:24-28

Pause and pray... ask the Father if there is anything within you that needs to die in order to truly live.

Give us the wisdom to know, as you did, when it is time to lay down our life so that someday we can take it up again.

Pause and pray... ask the Father to show you areas in your life that need to be laid down or surrendered to Him.

Give us the grace to endure the pain of witnessing your humiliation and rejection so that we can more gracefully endure our own. Read Philipians 2:5-8.

Help us to be as gut-wrenchingly honest as you were when you cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Pause and pray... be honest with God about where you feel He has left you

Grant us the courage to let go when it is time. Grant us the patience to wait with you in the silence of death until you call forth the resurrection. Amen | RHB