

THE PRAYER VIGIL WITH JESUS AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE

Our prayer vigil is our way of being with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane that night he agonized with the Father about the impending events. We are also with him when Judas arrives with the soldiers to arrest him and take him away

Use this time for prayer in its many forms – verbal, mental, and also that deep silent exchange between your heart and the heart of God – a “force field” of the continual exchange of love between you and him. Silence, stillness is the context.

You may want to vary your posture of prayer. Note pads and pencils are here for your use in writing down thoughts you want to remember. Also, they are available for you to write down something you forgot to do – distractions that can deflect you from prayer, but things needing to be dealt with back home or at the office.

A statement of the meaning and nature of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Sacrament is available to you, if you would like to use it to focus yourself a bit.

An outline of devotion from the Bible, Prayer Book, and Hymnal is also available for your use. Let this time with Jesus and your parish family be one in which you and our Lord, the Holy Spirit, develop a devotional plan best for you now.

BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 52:13-53; 42:1-9; 49:1-6; 53:4-9a
Exodus 12:1-14a
Genesis 22:1-18
Philippians 2:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15, 24-28; 11:39 – 12:15
I Corinthians 1:18-31; 11:23-26
Luke 22:14-30
John 18th and 19th chapters

PRAYER AIDS

Prayer Book, beginning on page 814 (note index just before, and the number of the prayer). Use any helpful to you.

Note prayers 66 and 67, page 834, and “Holy Cross Day,” page 192.

Compline, page 127

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O Lord, make us, we beseech thee, to be fulfilled with the everlasting fruition of thy Godhead; whereof the receiving of thy precious Body and Blood in this life is both a figure and a pledge, who livest and reignest with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

O God, who in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar dost in a special manner fulfill thy promise to be with thy people until the end of the world, increase the ancient practice of the reservation of this Holy Mystery, that our priests may at all times be able to minister the same to the sick and dying, and they faithful people to adore and worship thee, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God world without end. Amen.

O God, who wonderfully refreshest thy Church by thy precious Body and Blood, pour out upon it thy quickening spirit, that, living upon thee on earth through partaking of the heavenly mysteries, we may attain to live with thee in heaven; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost one God, world without end. Amen.

O God, who in a wonderful sacrament has left unto us a memorial of thy passion, grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

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The words of hymns useful for prayer and meditation:

164, 158, 168, 171, 302, 305, 308, 310, 312,
313, 314, 318, 324, 329, 330, 332, 336, 339

Also hymns under these headings: Holy Communion, Lent, Passiontide

ADORATION AND INTERCESSION TO CHRIST IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

O Savior of the world, our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, Lover of Souls and King of Saints, we adore thee present in the blessed sacrament of the altar, and we pray thee to intercede for us, pleading the virtue of thy holy life and death.

We adore thee in the mystery of the Incarnation, dwelling in all the splendor of the heavenly places; and worshipped by saints and angels as God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, but on earth, veiling thy glory as God made man, even as in the Holy Communion thou art hidden beneath the elements of bread and wine.

We adore thee in thy Holy Nativity, lying as a helpless babe upon the straw or asleep in the Virgin's arms, but ruling all things as almighty God. And as Saint Mary and Saint Joseph, the shepherds, and the Wise Men and all the heavenly host worshiped thee in thy manger throne as the only begotten of the Father, so we bend in loving adoration before thee now, enthroned in the holy sacrament of the altar.

We adore thee in thy holy life: in thy home at Nazareth, in thy ministry among men, reviled and persecuted, weary, hungry and faint, often with no place in which to lay thy head, tempted in all points as we are and like unto us in all things, yet without sin. And we pray thee grant us grace to follow thy blessed example, pleasing not ourselves, going about doing good, and bearing our cross after thee, our Lord and Master, our Savior and King despised and rejected among men but the very Light of the World whom we here acknowledge in the blessed sacrament.

We adore thee in thy death and passion, in thine agony in the garden, in thy bitter trials before Annas, Caiaphas, Herod, and Pilate, on the Way of Sorrows, and on the Cross of Calvary. And we worship thee, our most holy redeemer, covered with blood, dust, and spittle, in all thy pain and humiliation, who didst patiently suffer all things for “us men and for our salvation,” who could have had legions of angels at thy side. And we pray thee that we may be washed in thy precious blood and receive to ourselves the pardon won for us, as we plead the memorial of thy death and passion in the holy sacrifice of the altar and feed on thee, the Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, as thou givest thy body and blood unto everlasting life.

We adore thee, our risen and ascended Lord, who didst conquer sin and the grave, who didst rise again from the dead and take thy glorified human nature to the highest place of sovereignty and honor at the right hand side of God. And we pray thee that we may rise from our sins and ascend to lead a better life, seeking the things which are above and preparing for that wonderful life hereafter, when we hope to see thee face to face, by approaching thee here on earth in the sacramental feast.

O Savior of the world, may we ever adore thee more and more, and never requite thy love for us by coldness, carelessness, or wrongdoing. May we wholly give ourselves to thee, who wast nailed to the cross for us. May we burn with the fire of love, the ardor of devotion, the fervor of zeal, adoring, glorifying, and following thee so that we may truly “see light in the face of Jesus Christ.” As God may we worship thee, as man may we copy thee, as both may we be united with thee in the most comfortable sacrament of the Body and Blood, the very joy of existence here, the very promise of life hereafter.

Glory , honor, praise, and worship be to thee forevermore, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost are one God, world without end. Amen.