

**Old Hills Malvern Churches**

**Intercessions for Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday 2021)**

**Intercessions for our journey through Holy Week**

Almighty God, as we approach Holy Week and reflect on Christ's passion, may we truly understand the sacrifice he made for us.

Despite being unable to gather in our churches until the Joy of Easter Day, we give thanks for all those who are putting together and posting worship online across our *Churches Together in Malvern* and across our two parishes. Our online worship enables us to be together in spirit as we relive the trials of Holy Week and joy of the Easter story, a story which fills us with hope and confidence.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We think of Christ the servant- in the words of St. Ignatius:

*Holy God, teach us to be generous. Teach us to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that we do your will*

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We think of Christ at prayer while his disciples slept:

Holy God, we recognize that sometimes we put off prayer and thanksgiving as we give way to our human insecurity. We thank you for those who pray and intercede on our behalf both in heaven and here on earth, especially for all our ministers and members of the religious orders at Glasshampton, Mucknell Abbey and Stanbrook Abbey (Wass) who live a life of prayer, poverty, celibacy and obedience.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We think of Christ betrayed by a kiss and with denials:

Holy God, help us never to abandon someone in their time of greatest need. Help us to forgive those who have wounded and abandoned us in times of crisis. Cleanse our hearts from bitterness and resentment so we can be more like Jesus, who was abandoned and betrayed by those closest to him.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We think of Christ falsely tried, tortured and executed:

Merciful God, we pray today for those held and tried falsely by corrupt regimes knowing they have no hope of justice. We remember all prisoners, especially those enduring inhumane conditions and in fear of execution. Be with them in the darkness of their cells, in the loneliness of separation and in their fear. We pray for their families and their jailers.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We think of Christ's compassion despite receiving none himself:  
Loving God we pray for all who bring comfort, care and healing, especially our Health Services and Carers bravely looking after those in need in this worldwide crisis. We pray for the growing success of the vaccination programme. We pray for the sick, the sorrowful, those who have recently died and those who have been bereaved - or anyone remembering a sad anniversary at this time:

*We pray for the families of Ben Hodgkiss, Janet Mason and Mary Taylor*

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Holy God, as we move into Holy Week, we commend ourselves and all those with whom we live for whom Christ suffered, to your mercy and protection.

**Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen**

#### **Intercessions for Maundy Thursday**

At the Passover Feast Jesus was acutely aware that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. We pray for all who are approaching death and ask you to welcome them into paradise reunited with all who have left this world before them.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Judas Iscariot, taken over by the devil, took the opportunity to betray Jesus for money. We pray for all who turn to crime and violence rather than taking up honest and worthwhile work and we remember before God those who have been imprisoned for their crime praying that they will turn away from a sinful life upon release.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

During supper, Jesus took water and a towel and acting as a servant washed his disciple's feet. We pray for all who serve, especially those who have to do menial and unsavoury tasks. Help us never to take those who serve us in the world for granted.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

During the meal Jesus inaugurated the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We pray that every time we celebrate the Eucharist, we remember his passion and the sacred mysteries of his body and blood. Help us never through familiarity to allow the words and actions of our Communion make us apathetic to the true cost of his love and always to surprise us afresh each time we meet him at the Holy Table.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

At the end of the meal Jesus gave to us the new commandment to love one another as he loved us. We give thanks for the love that we share, the best we can in current circumstances, with our families and friends and all of our neighbours in Christ and that through such love we can be clearly seen as friends and disciples of Jesus.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

After the supper was ended Jesus sang hymns and prayed with his disciples. We give you thanks for all who lead our worship; John and Martin our bishops, priests across the Upton and Malvern Deanery, our parish ministers – Rev Gary, Julia, Meg, Barbara, Vicky, and Kay; for our organists (Charles, Carleton, Sally and Lyndall); for all who read within our services, our Virtual Verger sorting the Zoom music, and those that send in prayers for our weekly intercessions. We pray for those who do all the other things that make our worship online or in church meaningful and God centred: our wardens and vergers, the bell towers and flower teams and those that clean our churches so well.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

As we leave this service on the eve of Jesus' Crucifixion, mindful of the death that he was about to undergo, help us to be aware that it was for us that he hung and suffered there. May we prove our love for him by giving ourselves to him and serving him every day of our lives.

Merciful Father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

### **Intercessions for Good Friday**

*God showed His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us*  
Romans 5:8

*3 hours Lord,  
Your disciples, the women who followed you, your mother,  
They waited for 3 hours  
3 hours waiting at the foot of the cross  
3 hours waiting at a distance  
3 hours waiting for you to die  
Helpless, powerless,  
in shock and disbelief.  
Lord, this Good Friday we hold your world before you in prayer...*

Almighty Father look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of wicked men and to suffer death

upon the cross; Lord we thank you for all the benefits you have won for us. For all the pains and insults which you have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we by learning of the manner of your life learn to follow in your steps of humility and sacrifice. **Amen**

Lord Jesus Christ, take me along that holy way you once took to your death. Take my mind, my memory, above all my reluctant heart, and let me see what once you did for love of me and all the world. **Amen**

God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Therefore, we pray to our heavenly Father for people everywhere according to their needs.

**Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people; that in their vocation and ministry each may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your Name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.**

Most gracious God and Father, in whose will is our peace: turn our hearts and the hearts of all to yourself, that by the power of your Spirit the peace which is founded on justice may be established throughout the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.**

Merciful God, creator of all the people of the earth, have compassion on all who do not know you, and by the preaching of your Gospel with grace and power, gather them into the one-fold of the one Shepherd, Christ our Lord.

**Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.**

Almighty and everlasting God, the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer; hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble: and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief, and refreshment, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us commend ourselves and all God's children to his unfailing love, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have died in the peace of Christ, we may come to the fullness of eternal life and the joy of the resurrection.

**Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*(Your Prayer becomes Our Prayer returns after Easter Sunday)*