

# The Daily Office

## Holy Week Faith Challenge (week 29)

This Lent we've been practicing the Daily Office, an Old Testament pattern of pauses & prayers meant to acknowledge God, seek his face, and worship him throughout the day (Ps 119:164; Acts 3:1), a practice that found later expression throughout Christianity, particularly monastic communities.

Holy Week's Daily Office takes a different turn than the last several weeks. It seeks to mirror Jesus' week in Jerusalem leading to his crucifixion.

Monday through Wednesday follow our standard 3x/day pattern. Thursday does as well, but adds the spiritual practice of fasting and culminates with a communal worship service in the evening. Good Friday shifts to the monastic pattern of 7x/day starting at 3am; it too culminates with an evening time of worship.

We encourage you this week to embrace as much of the Daily Office as you can. May God challenge you, come to you, and stir your soul in the process.

# Monday

On Monday of Holy Week, Jesus clears the temple. It's a symbolic act of Yahweh's judgment on Israel's obstinate rebellion, now epitomized in their rejection of his Son. Ultimately this act leads to the intensification of the Jewish leaders' plot on Jesus' life.

Yet as the temple is overturned, so God will ultimately judge rebellious people.

Read Jesus clearing the temple in Mark 11:11-19; Matt 21:12-17; or Luke 19:41-48.

## Morning

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I start my day in your name. Guide me in your will.

**Read: My faith and the faith of those around me is as big as God is for what God wants to accomplish.** "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:18-20)

### **Pray Luther's Morning Prayer:**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## Midday

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I live my day in your name. Sustain me in your will.

**Memorize Ps 51:16-17.** You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## Evening

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I end my day in your name. Guard me in your will.

**Read:** John 12

### **Pray Luther's Evening Prayer:**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

# Tuesday

On Tuesday of Holy Week, Jesus faces an onslaught of challenges, questions, and traps as he teaches in Jerusalem. The teachings, confrontations, and parables so often associated with Holy Week by and far fall on this day.

You can read some of this in Mark 11:27-13:37.

## Morning

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I start my day in your name. Guide me in your will.

**Read:** **God is currently raising awareness all over the world and setting up massive spiritual networking for his vision and work.** "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Col 1:13-14)

### **Pray Luther's Morning Prayer:**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## Midday

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I live my day in your name. Sustain me in your will.

### **Memorize Ps 51:16-17**

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## Evening

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I end my day in your name. Guard me in your will.

**Read:** Ps 113 (Pss 113-118 were often sung in Jerusalem in connection with Passover)

### **Pray Luther's Evening Prayer:**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

# Wednesday

Jesus' journey to the cross is quickly approaching. While exact chronologies are difficult to make for each aspect of Holy Week, Wednesday of Holy Week seems like a calm before the storm. The clouds are brewing as the religious leaders are plotting after the conflict of Monday and humiliation of Tuesday. Time is short...

## Morning

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I start my day in your name. Guide me in your will.

**Read: It is harvest time. God is actively recruiting and calling forth selfless and fearless workers for the fields that are ripe for the harvest!** "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matt 9:38)

### **Pray Luther's Morning Prayer:**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## Midday

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I live my day in your name. Sustain me in your will.

### **Covenant Renewal**

Work through "Reignite" in the FOF Covenant Renewal.

## Evening

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I end my day in your name. Guard me in your will.

**Read:** Ps 114 (Pss 113-118 were often sung in Jerusalem in connection with Passover)

### **Pray Luther's Evening Prayer:**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

# Maundy Thursday

On Thursday of Holy Week, before his arrest, Jesus gathered in the upper room of a house with his disciples, sharing the Passover meal before going to the cross.

“Maundy” is Latin for *mandatum*, meaning “command.” Maundy Thursday is thus named because of the new command Jesus gives to his disciples while celebrating the Passover with them: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34). Jesus is about to epitomize that love by giving his own life.

You can read some of what transpired in John 13-17.

## Morning

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I start my day in your name. Guide me in your will.

**Read: God is plundering the resources of the kingdom of darkness and transferring them into the Kingdom of His Son!** “In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” (Rom 8:36)

**Do:** Fast for the day. The spiritual discipline of fasting has been practiced by followers of God for centuries as a sign of repentance, acknowledging dependence, and expressing devotion to Him.

## Midday

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I live my day in your name. Sustain me in your will.

**Read:** Psalm 115; 119:105-112 (*nun*); Matt 4:1-3

**Pray:** “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matt 4:4).

## Evening

Tonight we come together in fasting to celebrate a meal which partakes in Christ. It testifies to his love for us, and is an expression of the love we are called to have for one another, a meal which Christians would later call a foretaste of the feast to come.

**Do:** Come to our Maundy Thursday worship service @ 7pm.

Following tonight’s service the Daily Office shifts to seven times in the monastic style, beginning at 3am this night. Details on the page to follow.

# Good Friday

Jews in Jesus' day reckoned their days from sundown to sundown. The Passover meal of Maundy Thursday thus begins a 24 hour day in which Jesus is betrayed, falsely accused, tried, judged, tortured, and executed on a cross. The day we call Good Friday.

Practice the Daily Office seven times today in monastic fashion. Experience a bit of Jesus' sleepless night and arduous day, culminating this evening with worship that retells the story of Jesus' crucifixion

## Around 3am (Vigils)

Leave the lights off or dim and practice by candlelight, if possible.

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, keep me in your will.

**Read:** Luke 22:39-62.

**Pray:** Lord's Prayer

## Around 6am (Lauds)

**Read:** Luke 22:66-71

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, sustain me in your will.

## Around 9am (Terse)

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, defend me in your will.

**Read:** Luke 23:1-25

**Pray:** Psalm 116

## Around noon (Sext)

**Read:** Luke 23:26-43

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, carry me in your will.

## Around 3pm (None)

**Read:** Luke 23:44-49

**Pray:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, your will be done.

## **Evening** (Vespers or Compline)

The ancient Church held a special service on the day Jesus was crucified to impress on our minds and hearts the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of our Savior's sacrifice. The service is called "Tenebrae," which means darkness.

Tonight hear the story of Christ's crucifixion in a service of darkness and shadow. As our worship unfolds, we hope you will experience the depth of our Lord's crucifixion which has reconciled you to God.

**Do:** Come to our Good Friday service at 7 or 9pm. (Childcare at 7pm.)

# **Easter Sunday**

Christ is risen! Celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the dawn of God's age to come! Read what transpired that first Easter in Matthew 28, Mark 16; Luke 24; or John 20.

## **Outdoor Easter Sunrise @ 6am**

Since the days of the early church a vigil has been held between sundown on Saturday and sunrise on Easter Sunday. Often corresponding to sunrise, those seeking to follow Jesus and confess him as Savior and Lord would come to be baptized and celebrate their new birth in him.

Experience that first Easter morning! Bring a blanket or chair and dress for the weather. Rain or shine. Bring a digital device to follow song lyrics and readings. Service available on the FOF homepage.

## **Easter Services @ 8, 9:30, and 11am**

Childcare @ 9:30 & 11am

When Paul proclaimed to Jews and Romans that God's Christ suffered, died, and rose again, Festus shouted he was out of his mind (Acts 26). Yet through the scandal of the cross and resurrection, God's salvation comes.

Embrace the scandal and celebrate the most significant event of God's salvation!