

The Lord be with you.

Prayer of Preparation

All

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Our Prayer of Confession is based on John.13.33-38

‘My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ ‘A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’

³⁶ Simon Peter asked him, ‘Lord, where are you going?’ Jesus replied, ‘Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.’

³⁷ Peter asked, ‘Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.’

³⁸ Then Jesus answered, ‘Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the cock crows, you will disown me three times!’

The Collect for Palm Sunday

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

A reflection on Matthew 26.6-13 Jesus anointed at
Bethany

⁶ While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, ⁷ a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

⁸ When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. 'Why this waste?' they asked. ⁹ 'This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.'

¹⁰ Aware of this, Jesus said to them, 'Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹ The poor you will always have with you,^[a] but you will not always have me. ¹² When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.

¹³ Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'

Once we were far off,
but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been
brought near
through the shedding of Christ's blood,
for he is our peace.

cf Ephesians 2.13,14

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Two Prayers to prepare our hearts to take communion
follow.

**/ Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Words of Paul and Peter

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to
you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took
bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and
said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in

remembrance of me.’²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

1 Corinthians. 11.23-26

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.

1 Peter 1.8

We offer our own thanks for the bread and wine before us.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Concluding Prayer

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love and tender mercy of God the Father, and the blessing of Holy Spirit who applies to our hearts the sprinkling of Christ’s blood be yours now and evermore.