



Youth Ministry -Holy Thursday Vigil

As we approach the close of Lent and the entry into Easter, we must pass through Holy Thursday and Good Friday, the Passion of Christ. Most Churches have an evening vigil for Holy Thursday, often with Eucharistic adoration. To make this more appealing to young people why not add prayers, hymns, rituals etc.

So this month, March, our youth ministry download is a prepared Holy Thursday Vigil. It runs for about an hour and I would recommend it take place in the evening, from 9-10pm on Holy Thursday. It is the night time that causes one to pause and reflect. And it is close to the time of Jesus' Passion, so it offers a solemn ambience to the occasion. The vigil is best carried out in the Church, in front of the altar or the Eucharist (if adoration is being held). The download will require you to make the altar the scene of the Garden of Gethsemane. You will also need 2 sheets of butcher paper and two texts.

HOLY THURSDAY VIGIL – IN THE STEPS OF JESUS

The Call to Prayer

Leader: Jesus we tell your story and we follow your footsteps:

All: **Into the Garden of Gethsemane**

Leader: We enter and we wait in the garden:

All: **Lead us to Holy Ground.**

Leader: We journey towards death and we hope for resurrection:

All: **Lead us into Holy Joy.**

Hymn: Holy darkness

Holy darkness, blessed night, heaven's answer hidden from our sight. As we await you, O God of silence, we embrace your holy night.

I have tried you in fires of affliction; I have taught your soul to grieve. In the barren soil of your loneliness there I will plant my seed.

I have taught you the price of compassion; you have stood before the grave. Though my love can seem like a raging storm, this is the love that saves.

In your deepest hour of darkness, I will give you wealth untold. When the silence stills your spirit, will my riches fill your soul.

Reader 1: Jesus did not use his energy to tear down, but to build up, create and restore. Jesus performed acts of compassion, forgiveness, acceptance and love that had a tremendously positive effect on others. We are called to respond in simple ways by using the gifts God has given us to continue to show the world how we live, just as Jesus did.

Reader 2: Jesus' Passion isn't about suffering and persecution. The Passion is about Jesus' response to the people in his life – those who love him and those who reject him. He was fully human. Despite his fear, uncertainty, and agony, he focuses on God and others. Through God's power he offers the last hours of his life as a lesson for how followers can find meaning in every hour of their lives.

Reader 3: In today's world Jesus' Passion continues. Our world has been filled with suffering and pain since the beginning of time. But Jesus' response was unusual. His response made God's power even more available for Christians who seek to respond to him. And history is filled with those heroes. Will you join their number?

Pause

Reader 4: Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives (Mk 14:32-42)

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray'. He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here and keep awake'. And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed

that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want'. He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak'. And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand'.

Leader: Jesus speaks: "My people, I am yourself. I am your beauty. I am your goodness which you are destroying. I am what you do to what you should love. I am what you're afraid of, your deepest and your best and most naked self. Your badness largely consists in what you do to goodness, your own and others. You are afraid of the good. You are afraid of me. You kill what you should love. You hate and fear the very thing that could and will transform you. I am Jesus crucified. I am yourself and I am all of human history."

Reader 5: The Arrest of Jesus – Mt 26:47-56

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.' At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?' At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Ritual

Tonight as we spend time in the Garden of Gethsemane we are reminded of the tears shed, of the betrayal, of the Cross carried. Let us express our sorrow for our sins.

One by one you are asked to go up and write 'Forgive me' on the sheet which is placed in front of the altar, representing the Garden of Gethsemane.

Hymn: Help me God – Kathy Trocoli

Help me, God I'm scared and I'm unprepared to face the night alone. Hear me, hear my prayer. My soul it aches and I've nowhere to go, help me God.

In this dark hour I know only the power that made the stars, can mend my heart. Oh I've tried on my own but I'm not that strong. You're all I've got; you're all I've got. Help me God.

Sometimes people leave and I can grieve cause life's not always fair. Help me to hold on. Though I can't see you, I believe your there, I know your there

All: Lord Jesus you are my life and you are also my death. You are my beauty. You are my possibility. You are my full self. You are everything I want, and you are everything I am afraid of. You are my ignored and neglected soul.

Reader 6: Jesus, your love is what I most fear. I can't let anybody love me 'for nothing'. I want to be worthy. Yet I want to stop the violence toward myself, the world and toward you, my crucified Lord. I do not ever again need to create a victim of anybody. Neither do I need to play the victim. You have shown me a new way.

Reader 7: You alone, Lord Jesus, refused to be crucifier, even at the cost of being crucified. You never play the victim, you never ask for vengeance, but you only breathe forgiveness. While we on this fearful earth murder, mistrust, attack and hate. Now I see that it is not you that humanity hates; we hate ourselves, but mistakenly kill you.

Reader 8: I must stop crucifying your blessed flesh on this earth and in my brothers and sisters, and in every form of life, whether innocent or guilty, worthy or unworthy. We are all your blessed Body, and you have always loved us precisely in our unworthiness.

Reader 9: Now I see that you live in me and I live in you. You are inviting me out of this endless cycle of illusion and violence. You are Jesus crucified. You are saving me. In your perfect and patient love, you have chosen to enter into union with me. I do not pretend to understand. I can only receive, trust and thank you forever. I am your dwelling place. You have chosen to abide with me much more than I have ever chosen you. I am sorry.

Ritual

**As we continue to spend time in the Garden we realize that despite failures and sufferings, Jesus is present and carries our burdens.
Let us express our hope by writing 'Thank you' on the sheet which is placed in front of the altar, the Garden of Gethsemane.**

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