

April 9, 2020 ~A Prayer for Maundy Thursday-4th Day of Holy Week~

Note: in Matthew 26:17- 68, Mark 14:12-72, Luke 22:7-65, and John 13:1-48, 16:33, 17:1-26, 18:1-28, You can read the Four Gospel accounts about this day, night, and early the following morning in the life of Jesus and his disciples. The Gospels do not contradict, but instead give us God inspired teachings and details from the preparations for The Last Supper through the betrayal and arrest of Jesus.

““A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”” John 13:34-35

Lord Jesus, on a day when you alone knew the time was near for fulfillment of prophecies, we read that you chose love over fear. In your teaching, praying, and humbly submitting to your purpose, no greater love has been shared with people on this side of Heaven.

Anxious uneasiness returns to our heads and our hearts again and again, Lord. What we never imagined might happen in our secure and safe lives, is happening again each morning when we wake.

-Whether preparing to leave the sheltered safety of homes to go to work, working at home doing job tasks online, or 1 in 10 of all Americans facing unexpected job loss, workers have unfamiliar, very real fears of becoming infected, nonessential, or financially delinquent.

-Whether preparing online instruction for their students or reviewing content and objectives as home teachers, professional and parent educators worry about effective teaching, student understanding, and mastery.

-Whether stepping inside a store, masked and prepared to quickly shop, or waiting at home for deliveries from thoughtful offers to help or online orders, worries about having what's needed won't go away.

-Whether separated from family members, church family, emotional support, or social relationships, isolation from people we love and things we love to do is stressful.

Trusting you and your unconditional and everlasting love, help us find peace in all our unfamiliar circumstance.

(Include personal petitions, names, and prayer needs as you pray.)

In our quiet times, we ask for your peace.

In my exposure, I ask for protection.

In my hurting heart and broken human spirit, I ask for your encouragement .

In my feelings of inadequacy, I ask for your guidance and assurance.

In my loneliness, I ask to find purposes and projects helping other people.

In my own helplessness. I pray that your power and might would fill everyone working day and night helping to save lives, protect, and provide for our essential needs.

In my fears, remind me of your “no matter what”, unconditional love. Change my heart when I resist and remove my judgement and criticism. As you love me, help me love your people.

In my mind I’m an unlikely servant. I am imperfect, but in your eyes I’m your disciple. Choosing to be fearful paralyzes me. Choosing to respond to the Holy Spirit in loving words and actions energizes my human spirit.

Father God, In my Living Savior’s name, I ask you’d energize me and help redirect my fears to responses of unconditional love. Amen.