

Friday – Prayer Around the Cross
Easter Season – Be Not Afraid (Holden Book, pg. 54)

INTRODUCTION (optional):

If you have a commemoration, a special welcome to guests, or particular instructions about a portion of the service, put them here. Otherwise, this section can be dropped.

The service begins with the following invitation.

INVITATION

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.

Into our darkness, doubt and despair,
Come, Christ Jesus, be our light.

Into our sorrow, sickness, and grief,
Come, Christ Jesus, be our comfort.

Into each conflict, division, and war,
Come, Christ Jesus, be our peace.

Into this wounded world,
Come, Christ Jesus, be our hope.

When we call to you, hear our cry.
Do not abandon us, but draw near.
Come, Christ Jesus, be our life.

When we call to you, hear our cry.
Do not abandon us, but draw near.
Come, Christ Jesus, be our life.
Amen.

SONG

An alleluia, a morning hymn, or a seasonal hymn appropriate to the time of day is sung.

PRAYER

Let us pray:

**God of glory,
fill your church with the power
that flows from Christ's resurrection,
that, in the midst of the sinful world,
it may signal the beginning of a renewed humanity,
risen to new life with Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. AMEN**

PSALM:

Introduce the Psalm and explain how it will be read or sung. Feel free to copy and paste the psalm into this form for sake of ease:

PSALM PRAYER:

The Psalm Prayer can be found in the ELW Leaders' Desk Edition or on the Student Drive under the folder Chapel and then under Worship Resources. Each Psalm has a particular prayer printed at the end of it.

SCRIPTURE

Before the reading, announce:

A reading from <Book>.

After the reading, say:

Word of God, word of life.

The assembly stands.

HYMN or CANTICLE

A hymn related to the scripture reading or a seasonal hymn.

Possible canticles include: Song of Zechariah (ELW #226, 250, 552), Salvation belongs to our God (ELW p. 219)

PRAYERS AROUND THE CROSS

When the music begins, you are invited to come to the cross to kneel, sit or stand to pray. Come alone or with another. Stay as long as you would like. If you pray at the station with the square vessel, others may come and lay hands upon you while you pray, joining their prayers with yours. Light a candle as a sign of hope, lit in the hope of Christ's cross and resurrection, dancing amidst darkness. Let us

gather around the cross as the body of Christ, renewed and given life through Christ's cross and resurrection.

Choose several shorter, contemplative-style hymns for singing during the prayers. Hymns may be chosen from ELW, Singing Our Prayer, or another resource (provided copies can be distributed before the service).

<Title, Number>

<Title, Number>

<Title, Number>

Concluding prayer

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, be our starting point and our haven, and accompany us in this day's journey. Use our hands to do the work of your creation, and use our lives to bring others the new life you give this world in Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all. Amen.

Or

O God, who made of one blood all races and nations of earth, and sent your Son Jesus Christ to preach to those who are far off and to those who are near: Pour out your Spirit on the whole creation, bring the nations of the world into your fellowship, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

Our Father in heaven . . .

or

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

BLESSING

The risen Christ bring us light and life in these days of Easter rejoicing.

Amen. Alleluia!

or

The Lord almighty bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace. Amen.

Ideas for Songs:

(SP = Singing our Prayer)

SP 29

ELW 528

SP 30

SP 9

SP 23

SP 20

SP 7