

GUIDE FOR HOME WORSHIP 04/10

Today is Good Friday. Here are some suggestions for worshipping in your home today.

- **Have some elements ready for communion! Call a friend via Zoom and participate together!**
- It may seem awkward at first, but I'd encourage you to "push through the awkward." It gets more comfortable with time.
- Select someone to act as the leader for the service/take turns leading different sections below (Call to worship, prayer, benediction).

CALL TO WORSHIP

Read aloud *before* clicking play on the musical worship:

Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matt. 27:46

PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, for years I struggled calling the day of your crucifixion "good." How presumptuous on our part. That there had to be a day when you—the eternally glorious Son of God, would be made sin for us, is not good at all. But at the same time, that you would freely and gladly give yourself for us on the cross, is never-to-be surpassed goodness—quintessential goodness.

Oh, the wonder of it all. From the cross, and from your heart, came these two impassioned cries. "Father forgive them" (Luke 23:34) and "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46). The first required the second. The second secured the first. Together, they humble our hearts and fuel our worship.

And then there's the third cry. "It is finished." Nothing is left undone, concerning our salvation and for the transformation of our world. Once and for all—perfectly and fully, we have been reconciled to God. You became sin for us, that in you, we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21)—the Just for the unjust, the Beautiful One for the broken ones, the Lamb of God for the rebels from God.

Lord Jesus, a millions years into our life in the new heaven and new earth, we will still be stunned with awe, worship, and gratitude for the greatness of your sacrifice and love for us. Because you were fully forsaken, we are forever forgiven. Because you exhausted God's judgment against our numberless sins, we now live by the gift of your perfect righteousness. Bow our heads in humility and raise our hands in praise. So very Amen we pray, in your all-glorious, all-grace-full name.

STREAM THE SERVICE

BENEDICTION *Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. -Psalm 31:3*

(OPTIONAL) WATCH "God Rested"

Lent, and Holy Week in particular, is about the miracle of Jesus' atoning death and resurrection, which is itself a mystery of God's mercy. This week in the [OPC|M Holy Week Devo](#) we have been reflecting upon

some art that reflects the mystery of the gospel (Colossians 1:26) that was made clear on Resurrection Sunday.

Listen to the song (click the image) and meditate on the beautiful truth that our God rested in Creation and in Redemption, and because of Jesus he promises us ultimate rest in the New Creation!

Amen and Amen to that!



About the Art: "God Rested"

by Andrew Peterson

"Joseph of Arimathea got permission from Pilate to bury Jesus quickly because the Sabbath began at sundown, and the Jews weren't supposed to touch a dead body on the holy day. We're told that the women followed him to the tomb and wrapped Jesus's body in linen to prepare him for burial.

And then they waited. The city went to sleep. If it's true that God is outside of Time, then it follows that he knew at creation, and when he established the Sabbath as a day of rest, that he was foreshadowing the Saturday when his son's body would rest in the tomb.

When I was in Jerusalem I was struck by the stillness of the city during the Sabbath, the poetic *rightness* of that stillness, in the wake of Christ's death—even as the hearts of Pilate, the chief priests, the Roman soldiers, and those who loved Jesus would have been anything but restful." -Andrew Peterson

God Rested Lyrics

So they took His body down
The man who said He was the resurrection and the life
Was lifeless on the ground
The sky was red as blood along the blade of night

As the sabbath fell they shrouded Him in linen
They dressed Him like a wound
The rich man and the women
They laid Him in the tomb

Six days shall you labor
The seventh is the Lord's
In six He made the earth and all the heavens
But He rested on the seventh
God rested
He said that it was finished
And the seventh day, He blessed it
God rested

So they laid their hopes away
They buried all their dreams about the kingdom He
proclaimed

And they sealed them in the grave
As a holy silence fell on all Jerusalem

But the Pharisees were restless
Pilate had no peace
And Peter's heart was reckless
Mary couldn't sleep

But God rested

Six days shall you labor
The seventh is the Lord's
In six He made the earth and all the heavens
But He rested on the seventh
God rested
He worked till it was finished
And the seventh day, He blessed it
He said that it was good
And the seventh day, He blessed it
God rested

The sun went down

The sabbath faded

The holy day was done and all creation waited

DISCUSSION GUIDE

(to be used in community with others)

Tips: Talk through these questions over some food and take joy together in the truths and promises you've heard today in God's Word, in song, and as you discuss together.

If you're not sharing a home with others, then gather digitally with those in your LifeGroup, Discipleship, Study Group, or simply other people and enjoy some conversation!

COMMUNION WITH GOD

- What is God saying to you in this Word, in the sermon, or in your personal time with him in Word and Prayer this week?
- How does Luke 23:32-34 display God's heart for us? How would you describe the only appropriate response to this?
- What is so **humbling** about the **hope** God offers us in the gospel?
- In what ways are you **entrusting** your life into His hands?
- How has this shaped your experience of the **help** he promises?

COMMUNITY WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

- What is one burden you want to share with us that you need help shouldering?

COMMISSIONED TO GOD'S WORLD

- How can we pray for you? For your neighbors?