



Prayer Service

Gather and quiet the children in the area set aside for the prayer service. Practice with them the words and the actions for the song "Day by Day." If you do not know the melody, feel free to recite the words with the children and to create your own actions.

Notes: You will need a leader, four readers, and a music CD.
(*Tenebrae of Good Friday* or other Lenten music).

Leader: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We greet you with love and ask that you help us listen carefully to your words. Teach us how to live simply and humbly as you, who sacrificed your life for us, did. Help us to "see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly."

Leader: Let's all say "Amen!"

All: Amen!

Leader: Let's stand now and sing/recite "Day by Day."

Song lyrics:

*Day by day
Day by day
Oh Dear Lord
Three things I pray
To see thee more clearly
Love thee more dearly
Follow thee more nearly
Day by day*

Leader: Please sit. Holy Week is a time when the Church around the world focuses on important events in Jesus' life. We think about the meaning of what Jesus said and did. On Holy Thursday, we remember that Jesus gave us the Eucharist, his own Body and Blood. On Good Friday, we recall the passion and dying of Jesus. On Easter Sunday, we celebrate Jesus' glorious rising from the dead.



Prayer Service *(continued)*

Reader 1: This holy weekend, with our eyes on Jesus, we try to spend more time at prayer, more time talking and listening to God.

Reader 2: This holy weekend, with our eyes on Jesus, we try to be more aware of the needs of others. We share our time and our treasure with those who are poor, hungry, and homeless.

Reader 3: This holy weekend, with our eyes on Jesus, we try to grow stronger by learning to avoid bad choices and by sometimes giving up things we enjoy.

Leader: With our eyes on Jesus, we try to understand and accept what God has in store for us. Jesus did this, and he is our example. Even when he knew he was going to die, Jesus gave himself over to whatever God wanted of him. Let us now watch what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Agony in the Garden Drama

(If you have arranged for children to perform the Agony in the Garden Drama, invite them to do so at this time.)

Leader: How hard it must have been for Jesus to be betrayed by one of his friends. That betrayal led to his death on the cross. Let us now listen to the Gospel of Luke:

Reader 4: A reading from the Gospel of Luke

It was about noontime, but darkness,
like that from an eclipse of the sun,
had settled over the whole land.
This lasted until mid-afternoon.
Jesus, having been on the cross three hours,
uttered a loud cry and said,
“Father, into your hands I give over my spirit.”
After he said this, he died.
[Pause and genuflect.]
Upon seeing what had happened,
a soldier gave glory to God and cried out,
“Surely this man was the Son of God!”

adapted from Luke 23:44–47



Prayer Service *(continued)*

Reader 4: The Gospel of the Lord.

Leader: Let's all say, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ."

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Before you leave our prayer service today, please come forward and place a kiss at the feet of Jesus on the cross, remembering how much he loved us.

CD: Play *Tenebrae of Good Friday* or other Lenten music.

