PRAYERS
FOR HOLY WEEK

Will you take this cross:
made from the palms waved in
my praise,
waved by the people who
couldn’t stop proclaiming who
I was?
Will you take this cross:
a sign of the pain that is real,
pain that cannot be ignored?
Will you take this cross:
and carry it this week of all
weeks,
this week they call ‘Holy’,
this week when Hosanna
stops,
and joy becomes sorrow,
when welcome becomes fear
and tables are turned over,
when words are spoken
and cannot be taken back?
Will you take this cross?
(Anne Sardeson)

Monday

Song:
Travelling the road to freedom,
who wants to travel the road with
me?
Feted with noise and branches
and banners hanging from every
tree;
cheered on by frenzied people,
puzzled by what they hear and
see:
travelling the road to freedom,
who wants to travel the road with
me?

Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road
with me?

Tipping the scales of justice,
Setting both minds and captives
free;
Suffering and yet forgiving,
Ev’n when my friends most
disagree:
Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road
with me?

Travelling the road to freedom,
I am the way, I’ll take you there.
Choose to come on the journey,
Or choose to criticize and stare.
Earth’s mesmerising evil
Only a traveler can repair.
Travelling the road to freedom,
I am the way, I’ll take you there

Mark 11: 15-19

They arrived at Jerusalem.
Immediately on entering the
Temple Jesus started throwing
out everyone who had set up
shop there, buying and selling.
He kicked over the tables of the
bankers and the stalls of the
pigeon merchants. He didn’t let
anyone even carry a basket
through the Temple. And then he
taught them, quoting this text:
My house was designated a
house of prayer for the nations;
You’ve turned it into a hangout for
thieves.
The high priests and religion
scholars heard what was going
on and plotted how they might
get rid of him. They panicked, for
the entire crowd was carried
away by his teaching. At evening,
Jesus and his disciples left the
city. (The Message)
Consider:
What is there in my life that Jesus won't put up with? – that wants clearing out? What is there in the world that is corrupt and unjust? Am I standing against it like Jesus or ignoring it?

Prayer:
Almighty God, you loved the world so much that you sent your Son not to condemn the world but that through him the world might be saved. We who are quicker to judge than to bless fall silent at the extravagance of your grace. As we are confronted again with the depth of human wickedness and the greater depth of your divine compassion, may we not remain unmoved. As Christ’s arms are stretched out and his body lifted up, may we confess our part in the sin of the world, repent of it, know the reality of your forgiveness and be transformed. Amen.

Tuesday:

Song:
O Jesus Christ, in human flesh, you practiced heaven’s care, besieged by need, betrayed by greed, sustained by faith and prayer.

Before you spoke, before you healed, before you broke the bread, in crowds, as in the quiet place, you felt for where God led.

Not to escape, but to prepare, to fathom and fulfil, you let your heart and hands be tuned, in silence, to God’s will.

So we, responding to your call, to walk your chosen way, admit our need to learn from you to love and work and pray.

Then send your Spirit to inspire our cautious hearts and hands, till work and prayer are rooted deep in love which understands.

Mark 12: 28-34:
One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question: "Which is most important of all the commandments?" Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these." The religion scholar said, "A wonderful answer, Teacher! So lucid and accurate—that God is one and there is no other. And loving him with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love
Consider:
What would my life look if my love for God was full of passion and prayer and intelligence and energy?
And if I truly loved others as I love myself?
How is God asking me to obey these commandments now?

Prayer:

God of love, 
through your Son
You gave us a new commandment,
To love one another as he loved us. 
In his Spirit we ask you for a mind forgetful of past injury, a will to seek the good of others, and a heart full of love for all; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Common Order)

Consider:
Try living this scene in imagination, as though you are the woman who loves Jesus so much. Capture the scene, the sounds, the smell and the feelings of the woman as she honours him in this way. Offer your own love to Jesus.

Prayer:
Lord God,
 maker and love of all,
 as we contemplate again
 the pageant of the Lord’s betrayal,
 suffering and death,
 may neither the history, ritual nor
 sentiment of this season
 in themselves fascinate us.
 Rather may our souls be grasped
 by what our minds alone cannot
 contain –
 that this was all for us.
 And so, Lord, may we be all for
 you. Amen.

(Common Order)

Thursday:

Song:
Word of the Father,
COME, LORD, COME
AND TAKE OUR FEAR AWAY,
AND TAKE OUR FEAR AWAY,
REPLACE IT WITH YOUR LOVE.

Firstborn of Mary,
Healer and helper,
Servant and sufferer,
Jesus, redeemer,
Christ, resurrected,
Maranatha,

Mark 14: 12-16:
On the first of the Days of
Unleavened Bread, the day they
prepare the Passover sacrifice,
his disciples asked him, "Where
do you want us to go and make
preparations so you can eat the
Passover meal?" He directed two
of his disciples, "Go into the city.
A man carrying a water jug will
meet you. Follow him. Ask the
owner of whichever house he
enters, 'The Teacher wants to
know, Where is my guest room
where I can eat the Passover
meal with my disciples?' He will
show you a spacious second-
story room, swept and ready.
Prepare for us there." The
disciples left, came to the city,
found everything just as he had
told them, and prepared the
Passover meal. (The Message)

Consider:
As Jesus was ready, and the
room was ready, am I ready to
stand by him through betrayal,
suffering and death? How am I
going to keep focused on Jesus
as Bank Holiday draws near and
the world goes into holiday
mode?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,
in this sacred and solemn week
when we see again the depth and
mystery
of your redeeming love,
help us to follow where you go,
to stop where you stumble,
to listen where you cry,
to hurt as you suffer,
to bow our heads in sorrow when
you die,
so that when you are raise to life
again
we may share your endless joy.
Amen.

(Common Order)

The Grace