

# Family Prayer Experience Good Friday

## We remember together

Done around the dining room or kitchen table, any time of the day, however this prayer will be more effective after sundown.

### Preparation

1. Replace the celebratory Table cloth you used for Holy Thursday with a piece of red cloth or ribbons.
2. Make sure you have a cross/crucifix on your table
3. The service calls for **seven (7)** candles in addition to your Christ Candle
4. Download the PDF of the script of the Passion
5. Before beginning your prayer, light all the candles on your table. If you don't have candles start with all the lights on and dim them throughout the prayer.

### Introduction - Parents use these words or your own

Holy Week gives us all a chance to walk with Jesus from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to his rising from the dead on Easter Sunday. Celebrating Holy Week as a family gives us a chance to experience the story in new ways.

Today is Good Friday, the day we remember Christ's death on the Cross. Even though we are celebrating a very sad event, we call this day **Good** Friday, because we see Jesus' death as a sign of his love for us. Our Prayer Experience today is called **TENEBRAE**.

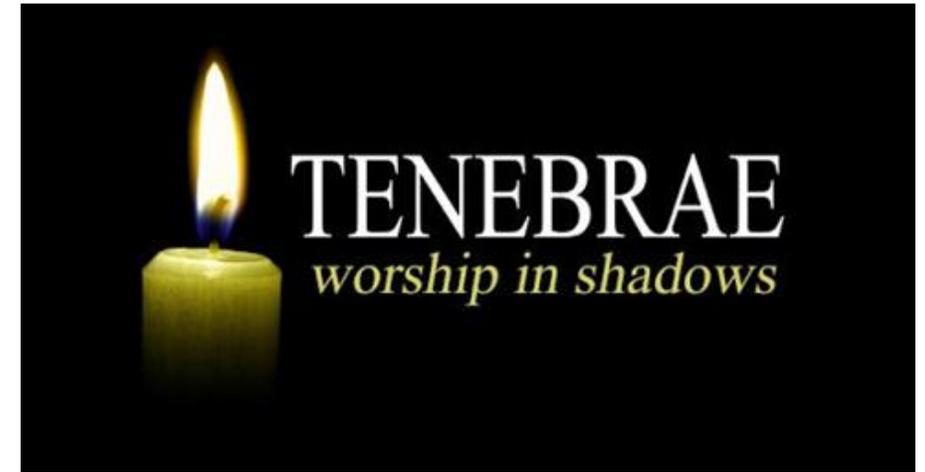
**Tenebrae** is a Latin word meaning **darkness**. Just as we have used our Christ Candle as a symbol that Christ is the light of the world, today we use darkness as a symbol of a world without the light of Christ. At the end of the service, we will use a **strepitus**, another Latin word that means a **loud sound** or crash, and symbolizes the chaos and violence of a world without God.

### Make the Sign of the Cross

### Call to Prayer

**Leader:** We adore you O Christ and we praise you,

All: **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**



- ❑ **Opening Song** - [CLICK HERE](#) to listen to **Were You There When They Crucified My Lord**.

Play the first minute or two and then fade the sound out

- ❑ **Read The Passion of Our Lord Seen Through the Eyes of the Children of Jerusalem** [link to the PDF of the script goes here]

- ❑ **The strepitus** - [CLICK HERE](#) sounds of thunder!

Turn up the volume on your phone or device.

This sound effect goes for 1.22 minutes.

For young children let it play for 10-20 seconds; 20-30 seconds for older children

- ❑ **Silence** - Sit quietly in the dark for 10-25 seconds – use your own disgression.

- ❑ **Closing Prayer** – put some of the lights on in the room - keep it dim

The parent takes the cross or crucifix from the table. If it large, fragile or ornate, use the hand-held Comfort Cross from your Faith Bag

Holding the cross the parent says in his or her own words,

**Parent:** Jesus, hearing the story of your death stirs up a lot of feelings in me [identify some of these feelings here].

It also reminds me how much you love us. Knowing you love me makes me feel [identify some of these feelings here].

Thank you Jesus for loving me.

→ Pass the cross to the person on your right and ask them to share one or two words about how hearing the story and extinguishing the candles made them feel.

→ When they have finished sharing have them pass the cross to the person on their **right**.

**When the cross makes it around to the original parent, he or she places it back on the table,**

→ Thank everyone for sharing and play the closing song.

- ❑ **Closing Song** [CLICK HERE](#) listen to the song **Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**

