

## *Holy Thursday*

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35 NIV)

O Lord, the King of Kings, who led and taught not as a mighty ruler, but a servant leader, show me how to lead and live through love. Teach me how to love and serve others with a gracious and humble heart. Help me to always remember your words, being reminded each time I come before your table to share in the cup and the bread. As I come before you to eat the bread of redemption and drink the cup of your salvation, may I recommit my heart to serving you and leading through love. To you, O Lord, who are mighty to save, pour out your mercy and grace and lead me in your way. Amen.

## *Good Friday*

“Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” (Hebrews 5:8-9 NIV)

O Jesus, on this day we remember your death, the day your light went out from this earth. We sit in the darkness today, remembering the trials you faced on our behalf. You have borne our sin and made the ultimate sacrifice to save us. Today, as we recall your final hours, we consider a world without you and hold onto the hope we know we have in you. Lord, commit my heart ever closer to you, because I don't want to live in a Good Friday world without you. I want you and your light in my life. I believe in you and want to follow you all the days of my life, even knowing the road ahead will be difficult. Come, Lord Jesus, come and fill this world with your light. Amen.

## *Holy Saturday*

“The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:7-8 NIV)

Heavenly Father, what great love you have for me that you would send your only begotten Son to die for my sins. How can I ever doubt your love or your ways? Yet in these dark moments, I start to question and doubt. I wonder what comes next and I fail to recall your great faithfulness. Lord, forgive my unbelief and help me believe. Help me to trust you in all things, in all times, even through the valleys and dark seasons of my life. For you are my rock and my refuge, my strength in the storm. Your love never ceases, your mercies never end. You are enough for me – more than enough. Help me to remember that all the days of my life. Lead me to walk in love, as a shining reflection of your love into this world. And help me live the life you desire of me, bringing glory to you in all that I do. Amen.

## *Easter Sunday*

The Easter story is rich in powerful contrasts. The birth of Jesus, a seemingly illegitimate child, born in squalor, lived a life under threat from the very beginning. The prophet, teacher and Son of God was challenged, hunted and crucified. Such a dark and unfavoured beginning and short and harsh life and ministry.

So when Easter day arrives, the tombstone rolls away for a risen Lord. On Easter day the stone rolls away for us all! The victims and downtrodden of this world are no longer trapped. The darkness of the tomb of fear, sin, torture, death, pain and despair is filled with light. The contrast is truly astounding! The nature of life itself is changed and the rhythms of the universe transformed forever. A new heartbeat of grace flows in and around every aspect of a fallen world. Redemption is all encompassing and the justice of heaven reigns. Amazing love! Amazing grace! Truth alive and death defeated forever!

### *An Easter prayer to the Holy Trinity*

O Lord,  
Risen, alive and full of grace.  
You paid such a price that we may live in freedom today.  
We worship your holy name and give thanks for your redeeming grace.

Heavenly Father,  
May we drink in your tender love so that we can pour this love out to others.  
Come reign in our hearts, minds and spirits.

Holy Spirit,  
We welcome you to blow through our every word, action and thought.  
Come transform us on the inside so that each day we become more like our risen Lord.

Amen.