

A BIBLE WORD PRAISE CELEBRATION
GETHSEMANE GLORY – LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

By means of Bible readings, this service remembers that the darkness which closed in on Jesus the Thursday night and at the crucifixion could not extinguish the light of the world - for resurrection came on Sunday. In Contemporary or Traditional order, we remember by receiving Last Supper remembrance, hearing the Bible readings and singing the songs and hymns, and keeping repentant silence in anticipation of the victory of Resurrection Sunday.

CONTEMPORARY ORDER

Welcome and Notices

Remembering the Last Supper...

Songs: **Blessing and honour**
 Father of Life
 Light of the world

Communion/Eucharist

Songs: **EI-Shaddai, EI-Shaddai**
 Above all power

Remembering the Darkness, Awaiting the Light...

Introduction

Reading: **Matt 26.20-25** One of you will betray me
 First candle extinguished

Reading: **Matt 26.31-35** You will disown me 3 times
 Second candle extinguished, Lights in wing sections switched off

Song: **Search me, O God**

Reading: **John 17.1-5** Father, glorify your Son
 Third candle extinguished

Reading: **John 17.15-23** Protect them from the evil one
 Fourth candle extinguished, Lights at back/sides switched off

Song: **Shout to the Lord**

Reading: **Luke 22.39-44** Not my will, but yours be done
 Fifth candle extinguished

Reading: **Mark 14.37-41** The hour has come
 Sixth candle extinguished

Song: **O let the Son of God enfold you**
 Main body of lights switched off, Readers lights remain

Reading: **John 18.2-8** Who is it you want?
 Seventh candle extinguished

Reading: **Mark 15.16-20** Hail, King of the Jews!
 Eighth candle extinguished, All lights switched off

Pause. MAIN CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Remembering Repentant Silence...

After a short pause, the central candle is relit.
The congregation exit in silence.

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TRADITIONAL ORDER

Welcome and Notices

Remembering the Last Supper...

Hymn: And can it be

Communion/Eucharist (Table/Altar cleared of elements during next hymn)

Hymn: When I survey the wondrous cross

Remembering the Darkness, Awaiting the Light...

Introduction

Reading: **Matt 26.20-25** One of you will betray me

First candle extinguished

Reading: **Matt 26.31-35** You will disown me 3 times

Second candle extinguished, Lights in wing sections switched off

Hymn: O sacred head sore wounded

Reading: **John 17.1-5** Father, glorify your Son

Third candle extinguished

Reading: **John 17.15-23** Protect them from the evil one

Fourth candle extinguished, Lights at back/sides switched off

Hymn: Beneath the cross of Jesus

Reading: **Luke 22.39-44** Not my will, but yours be done

Fifth candle extinguished

Reading: **Mark 14.37-41** The hour has come

Sixth candle extinguished

Hymn: O love that wilt not let me go

Main body of lights switched off. Readers lights remain

Reading: **John 18.2-8** Who is it you want?

Seventh candle extinguished

Reading: **Mark 15.16-20** Hail, King of the Jews!

Eighth candle extinguished. All lights switched off

Pause. MAIN CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Remembering Repentant Silence

After a short pause, the central candle is relit.

The congregation exit in silence.

A BIBLE WORD PRAISE CELEBRATION GETHSEMANE GLORY – LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

This service remembers by readings of the Bible that the darkness which closed in on Jesus the Thursday night and at the crucifixion could not extinguish the light of the world - for resurrection came on Sunday. We remember by receiving Last Supper remembrance, hearing the Bible readings and singing the songs and hymns, and keeping repentant silence in anticipation of the victory of Resurrection Sunday.

Preparation:

Tables of the same height are used to supplement the Communion table/Altar table so that a cross shape with the long upright lines up down the centre of the church. Table clothes are used if so desired.

Candles 8 lesser candles are placed at the corners of each of the arm ends (x4), the corners of the foot end (x2), and the inner corners of the long upright of the cross shape where it intersects with the cross arms.(x2) These candles should form a T shape. One large main candle is then placed in the centre of the head end upright of the cross shaped table. The readers light the candles either at the beginning of the Communion/Eucharist section, or after the Eucharist before the first reading is done. Due caution for fire hazard should be taken if using service and song leaflets etc.

Last Supper Remembrance: The service begins with a Communion/ Eucharist remembrance of the Last Supper, at which the minister/pastor presides and is the worship leader. The Communion/ Eucharist bread and wine are placed on the head and arms.section of the table (to suit numbers expected, and size of table layout).

Readers God's people need to hear our relationship with the Bible in Easter worship to keep faith balance, 8 readers, some elders/wardens/servers for serving communion should be organised a few days beforehand: their Bible readings should be given to them so practice will allow good voice projection and familiarity with lectern and microphone, and the flow of the service clarified with them, so that after they have read they correctly extinguish their candle..

Lights management: As the service progresses, after each paired set of readings and song/hymn following them, the lights of the church are switched off (see service order). A lights manager is thus needed. After reading No.8 of the last pair, no song/hymn is sung, all candles and lights except the large main candle at the table head must be out. After a short pause, the minister extinguishes this main candle. A minute or two of total darkness, after which the minister lights the large main candle again, and soft exit lights only are switched on to help worshippers exit in silence.

Repentant Silence: Other than joining the song/hymn worship, an attitude of repentant silence is expected of worshippers, who also leave the church in silence to make their way home – spiritual quiet in anticipation of Resurrection Sunday.

Orders of service: Examples of traditional and contemporary orders of service are provided at the beginning of this document.

GETHEMANE GLORY – LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

(See Service Orders at the beginning for examples of hymns/songs)

Remembering the Last Supper...

Hymn/Songs:

The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life **everlasting**.
AMEN.

COMMUNION – REMEMBER ME...

Prayer Remembering Jesus...

Father in heaven, we praise you for all you have done for the world.
Too often we take you for granted,
yet the work of your Son deserves more than that.
We praise you for Jesus Christ our Lord;
He was born poor in Bethlehem and brought up in Nazareth.
He went through Palestine healing the sick, casting out demons,
and preaching that the good news that the Kingdom of God had come.
People heard him gladly and were astonished at his authority.
He called and trained disciples like us,
letting them share the work of God's kingdom as we do.
But he also set his face resolutely to go to Jerusalem
and give his life as a ransom for us.
In his death you proved your love towards us,
and reconciled the world to yourself.
So we confess our sin in thought, word and deed before him,
and thank you for the forgiveness he won for us.
Thank you that in him you have fulfilled all your promises
and given us the Holy Spirit to motivate our lives.
Thank you that we can remember his death for us.
Let the bread and wine we use be the sign
that we are saved only through his death and resurrection.
And let us offer ourselves to your kingdom tonight
just as Jesus offered his life. Amen.

Communion/Eucharist follows, the minister/pastor/presiding leader says:

Listen to St. Paul's words telling how this holy supper of our Lord began: 'The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.'

Now let us do as Jesus did, humbly recalling the sacrifice he made for us. So I take this bread and wine for this holy mystery alone.

**[Optional for traditional use:]
MINISTER AND CONGREGATION:**

Minister: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Congregation: Have mercy on us.
Minister: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Congregation: Have mercy on us.
Minister: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Congregation: Grant us your peace.

MINISTER SAYS:

On the night Jesus was betrayed he took some bread...

(Minister lifts and breaks the bread)

... and said, "This is my body which is broken for you."

In the same way he took the cup...

(Minister takes and lifts the cup)

... and said "This is the new covenant in my blood which was poured out for you."

(Minister then eats some of the bread and drinks from the cup. He then shares with those present saying...)

The body of Christ, broken for you...

The blood of Christ, shed for you...

Prayer of thanks for the Communion/Eucharist...

Heavenly father, we give you thanks for Jesus.

He is our true and ever-living priest who established his one eternal sacrifice, and offered himself to atone for our sins and redeem us to everlasting deliverance.

Thank you for this remembrance of him, proclamation of his death until he comes.

As we consider of the darkness of our sin which came over him and the world, we take faith that you and the Holy Spirit were with him and are with us,
one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

Hymn/Songs:

Remembering the Darkness, Awaiting the Light...

Introduction: We ask you to remember that on the evening before Good Friday, when Jesus and his disciples were in prayer together for the last time, he and they stood before the darkness of the cross. As the candles and lights are put out, this symbolises the darkness that covered over Jesus as his disciples fled, the dark hate of his enemies, and the sense of being forsaken by the Father as the suffering of the cross drew near.

The time of full darkness is remembrance of his time in the tomb.
The relighting of the main candle is a prophecy of Resurrection soon to dawn.

Please remember **REPENTANT SILENCE** throughout the service. The service ends with the relighting of the main candle, after which the fellowship exits in silence. Optional: to remain seated during singing of songs/hymns.

Reading 1: Matthew 26:20-25 Reader 1:.....
First candle extinguished

Reading 2: Matthew 26: 31-35 Reader 2:.....
Second candle extinguished

HYMN/SONGS

Reading 3: John 17: 1-5 Reader 3:.....
Third candle extinguished

Reading 4: John 17: 15-23 Reader 4:.....
Fourth candle extinguished

HYMN/SONGS:

Reading 5: Luke 22: 39-44 Reader 5:.....
Fifth candle extinguished

Reading 6: Mark 14: 37-41 Reader 6:.....
Sixth candle extinguished

HYMN/SONGS:

Reading 7: John 18: 2-8 Reader 7:.....
Seventh candle extinguished

Reading 8: Mark 15: 16-20 Reader 8:.....
Eighth candle extinguished

MAIN CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

After a short pause, the minister relights the central candle.
The congregation exit in silence.