

Lenten Prayer Devotion

We all pray. We invite God to be with us and to work in our lives. We ask God to provide for our needs and bless those that we love. We pray for healing, protection, and forgiveness. We also thank God for our many blessings. Is our motive to pray only to receive from God or is it to create a closer relationship with God? But how much time do we devote to prayer? Is it a few minutes before bed or first thing in the morning? Do you have a set time when you take time to intentionally pray?

For this devotion I am asking that you commit to praying 15 minutes a day for the duration of Lent. I am encouraging you to keep a prayer journal in order to write down your prayers, the answers to your prayers, and what you are learning about prayer. Each week we will focus on a particular topic. The topics include the Lord's Prayer, Jesus' teachings on prayer, methods of praying, prayers for healing, unanswered prayers, praying the Psalms, and Jesus' prayers on Maunday Thursday and Good Friday. I suggest that each day you read that week's devotion and follow the suggestions for that week. The weeks run from Wednesday through Tuesday with the last week going through Easter. Each Sunday I will preach on the same topic that the devotion is focused on. This way you are already thinking and praying on this topic before the sermon. Hopefully this will enable you to gain an even better understanding of prayer.

I have used several resources in preparing this devotion that I want to acknowledge. They include:

- “Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference” by Philip Yancey
- “Whole Prayer: Speaking and Listening to God” by Walter Wangerin Jr.
- “Help, Thanks, Wow” The Three Essential Prayers” by Anne Lamott
- “Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home” by Richard J. Foster
- “Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God” by Timothy Keller
- “Spiritual Disciplines Handbook” by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun

The church library has a whole section on prayer that you might want to check out.

I believe God does great things when we take the time to pray. Ephesians 3:20-21 reads: “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” So let us let our imaginations run wild as we take time to pray during this Lenten season.

Pastor Duke

Week 1 The Lord's Prayer
Wednesday March 2 to Tuesday March 8

This week's focus will be on the Lord's Prayer. This prayer is found in two of the gospels. The context of the prayer in Matthew is Jesus teaching about prayer in his Sermon on the Mount. In Luke Jesus' disciples ask him to teach them how to pray. As you read the two accounts notice the differences between them. Note that how we end the prayer is not included in either of the gospel accounts. It was added later. Nevertheless it is something we can include when we are praying this prayer.

Take time each day this week to pray the Lord's Prayer. Take time to follow the outline of Jesus' prayer but use your own words, expand upon the various phrases. Examples might include various names for God, using singular rather than plural pronouns, include more specific details. Take the time to think through what each phrase or word means. Write out your prayer for each day.

Matthew 6:9-13

“Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

Luke 11:1-4

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

Example of praying the prayer using your own words from Pastor Duke.

My heavenly Father, Papa, great and holy you are, personal you are. May your kingdom become a reality on earth as it already exists in heaven. How might I help that to be? I have more food than I need, more possessions than I need. How might I help those who praying for their daily needs? Forgive me my sins and may I forgive others their sins. Help me to stay away from temptation, to want to stay away from temptation. May I flee from evil and the evil one. May all this be for your kingdom's sake, for your glory, and the result of your power. Amen.

Week 2 Jesus' Teachings on Prayer
Wednesday March 9 to Tuesday March 15

This week's focus is on the lessons that Jesus taught about prayer. The verses from Matthew are taken from his Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is teaching that we should beware of trying to impress others with our prayers. He is also teaching that we don't impress God with our eloquent words. We are also being taught to be persistent in our prayers recognizing that God gives only good gifts to us. In the Luke passage, Jesus teaches us about prayer using a parable (story) about not losing heart as we pray. What do you learn from these lessons? Record it in your journal.

Matthew 6:5-8

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

Matthew 7:7-11

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly

grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

This week we want to practice Whole Prayer. This comes from the book by Walter Wangerin Jr., "Whole Prayer: Speaking and Listening to God." Whole Prayer can be summed up with four parts: We speak, God listens, God speaks, we listen. The first part we know. We speak to God through prayer. We also know that God listens to our prayers. We believe that God answers our prayer which is part of God speaking. We aren't always good at listening when God speaks. We need to learn that God speaks in numerous ways. God speaks through the Bible, through worship, through sermons, individuals, even nature, and more. There are countless ways that God speaks to us if we will but listen. Too often we end our prayers after we speak. We think we are done with our part not recognizing that God is listening but then also speaking. We don't take the time to listen for God's response. This week we want to practice listening. Take time after you pray to sit quietly and listen for God to speak to you in the silence. Perhaps read a portion of the Bible and listen for God speaking through the scriptures. Be alert as you go through the day looking and listening for God's voice. Take time to record in your journal what God is saying to you.

Week 3 Methods of Praying
Wednesday March 16 to Tuesday March 22

This week's focus is on various ways to pray. There is no one formula for praying. We have already looked at the Lord's Prayer and some of Jesus' teachings on prayer. We also looked at whole prayer where we speak, God listens, God speaks, and we listen. Today we want to look at praying ACTS; Help, Thanks, and Wow; and breath prayer. First let's examine some Bible passages that speak of how we are to pray.

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Notice what each passage says about prayer. The first reading speaks to God enables us to pray through the Holy Spirit. The second two readings offer us things we should incorporate in our prayers. Write in your journal what each passage teaches you about prayer. What follows are three methods of praying. Try one method each day and write your prayers down. Over the course of the week you will have been able to try each method at least twice. Which method works best for you?

The following is a simple formula that follows the order of praising God, confessing our sins, thanking God for all that God has done, and then raising our concerns to God. It uses the acronym ACTS.

Adoration- We praise God and give glory to God for who God is.

Confession- We confess our sins knowing that God forgives us when we do so.

Thanksgiving- We give thanks to God for what God has done for us.

Supplications- Here we make our requests made known to God. Notice that this comes last. Usually we put this first and may or may not include the other pieces of the prayer.

The second formula comes from Ann Lamott's book "Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers." The title gives away the formula. We begin calling out to God in our need. Often these are prayers of desperation. We need God's help for whatever it might be: sickness, temptation, addiction, etc. Next is giving thanks for the times that God does answer our prayers of help. The 'wow' are those times we give praise and adoration to God for who God is and what God has done. This can be something as simple as observing nature as God's creation to 'coincidences' we experience that have no real explanation other than God at work. We should attempt to practice all three elements of prayer.

The final formula I want to mention for this week is breath prayer. We have incorporated breath prayers into the Prayers of the People during our worship services. With breath prayers you pray a short phrase as you inhale and another phrase as you exhale. Practicing breath prayers is a good way to center ourselves and connect with God. This is a prayer that you can practice throughout the day as you walk, do chores, or drive. It helps us to focus on God. Suggested prayers include: "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me." "My soul glorifies the Lord, my soul finds rest in God." "Good Shepherd, lead me beside still waters." "Come, Holy Spirit; fill me, use me." Come up with your own breath prayers.

Week 4 Healing Prayers
Wednesday March 23 to Tuesday March 29

This week's focus is on healing prayer. I imagine many of our prayers focus on asking God to heal us or heal someone we know. Most of the prayer requests in our bulletin each week are asking for healing. Many of Jesus' miracles were healings. From time to time we hear of God miraculously healing someone. Yet I imagine for most of us we haven't experience a miraculous healing. This isn't to say we shouldn't be praying for the miraculous. God has indeed blessed us in this time and age with good medical practices and personnel. We should also recognize that God has created our bodies with remarkable abilities to heal themselves.

For this week's activity each day read one of the scripture passages below. Take a few minutes to dwell on what you have read. Don't be in a hurry but ask yourself what does this teach me about God's healing and prayer. You can also browse through the gospels and notice the numerous times that Jesus healed people. Notice the context as you do so. Ask yourself is there anything unique about this healing. Record your thoughts in your journal.

James 5:13-18

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

Luke 5:17-26

One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, "Why do you raise such questions

in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the one who was paralyzed—“I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home.” Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, God. Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen strange things today.”

Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

Week 5 Unanswered Prayers
Wednesday March 30 to Tuesday April 5

This week's focus is on unanswered prayers. How often have we prayed for someone's healing and then they died? Or we asked for something in particular but never received it even though we prayed faithfully for it? I have heard it said that there are three answers that God might give to our prayers: Yes, No, Not Yet. I think that is a very simplified way of looking at prayer. I also suspect that many people look at a 'no' answer and even a 'not yet' answer as unanswered prayers. Too often the way we respond when God doesn't answer our prayers the way we would like is with anger toward God or blaming ourselves for not having enough faith (after all Jesus said if we have a faith the size of a mustard seed we can move mountains). Yet as we will notice in one of our scripture readings this week that even Jesus had what could be considered an unanswered prayer. In our other reading, the Apostle Paul didn't get the answer he wanted either. The Old Testament has numerous examples of unanswered prayers ranging from men of God asking God to end their lives (Moses, Job, Jonah, and Elijah), to the armies of Israel and Judah praying for victory in battle only to lose, to David praying that his infant son might not die. Many of the Psalms are considered Psalms of Lament that describe the anguish and frustrations in not having one's prayers answered.

This week take time to read the scripture lessons and dwell on why God did not answer these prayers, at least didn't answer them the way the prayers wanted. Then recall times you have prayed for something that God did not give you. What were your motives for the request? Did God answer the prayer in a different fashion than you wanted? What might be other reasons that God doesn't answer our prayers? Record in your journal any unanswered prayers you may have had

Mark 14:32-42

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to

them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

Corinthians 12:7-10

Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Psalm 13

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and answer me, O LORD my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death, and my enemy will say, “I have prevailed”; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken. But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Week 6 Praying the Psalms Wednesday April 6 to Tuesday April 12

Our focus this week will be praying the Psalms. The Psalms have been called the Old Testament Prayer Book as well as the Old Testament Hymnal. The book of Psalms is a collection of 150 individual prayers or hymns depending on how you view it. The Psalms touch on all the emotions that we encounter in our daily lives. There are Psalms of praise and thanksgiving, despair and depression, instructions and learning, confession and forgiveness, comfort and assurance, and list goes on. Jesus prayed the Psalms, quoting from Psalm 22 while he was on the cross.

This week we will focus on several of the Psalms that cover a range of emotions. Since many of the Psalms were also hymns used in worship, we will explore singing our prayers. Some of the Psalms included in this week's devotion are familiar ones like Psalm 23, while others may be less familiar but speak to emotions we might be facing from time to time.

Each day read a Psalm from the list below or open your Bible and read a Psalms of your choosing. Reflect on what the Psalm is saying and how it might also be a prayer. Also consider choose a hymn or song and sing it as a prayer. Record in your journal your reflections on the Psalm or hymn that you used that day.

Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Psalm 93

The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved; your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the LORD! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Psalm 150

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with
tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with clanging
cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes
praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Week 7 Jesus' Final Prayers
Wednesday April 13 to Sunday April 17

This week's devotion takes us into Holy Week. The focus this week will be on the prayers of Jesus during this week. These include Jesus' prayer in the upper room with his disciples, his prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, and his prayers on the cross. As you read the various prayers, ask yourself what is Jesus requesting and how might we imitate his prayers. Record your thoughts in your journal.

Since this is also the last week of these Lenten devotions, think about how your prayer life has changed or not changed over the past several weeks. Read through your journal What new prayer habits have you learned? What will you continue to do even after you are finished with the devotions?

John 17

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so

that they also may be sanctified in truth. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Matthew 26:36-44

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

Matthew 27:45-46

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Luke 23:23, 44-46

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.---+---