

Prayers for Holy Week – COVID-19

Help of the tired, fearful, and sick ones, we are in need – so weary we can hardly think or pray; but you have known the toil, the grief, the strain of human suffering, and felt the pain of utter weariness – the sting of tears, fatigue – and so you know our needs. We may have no words to say, but in our hearts - we pray.

In the godforsaken, obscene quicksand of life, there is a deafening alleluia rising from the souls of those who weep, and of those who weep with those who weep.

God of Holy Week – we proclaim that to be joyful in the universe is a brave and reckless act. The courage for joy springs – not from the certainty of human experience, but the surprise. Our astonishment at being loved, our bold willingness to love in return – these wonders promise the possibility of joyfulness, no matter how often and how harshly love and life are tested.

Therefore, despite the world's sorrows, we give thanks for our loves, for our joys and for the continued courage to be happily surprised.

And now – a blessing:

May the God who listens to our hearts and enters into our pain bless us and all who are in need - with the comfort and quiet of God's gentle presence.

And, this Holy Week - may this same God reveal the power and hope of the resurrection at work in the world and bring you to joyful surprise at new life found in the face of death.

Amen.

Prayers are crafted from various works found in ***All Will Be Well*** published by Augsburg Fortress.