Artwork: Agony in the Garden by Andrea Mantegna (c. 1470)

The Gethsemane Watch: A Maundy Thursday Vigil

Following the Maundy Thursday liturgy (foot washing, and/or stripping of the altar) the Daughters of the King

encourage all the People of St. Luke's to participate in a vigil or watch until the start of the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday.

What is a Vigil?

To be on a vigil is to be wakeful for a purpose. In the ancient Roman times, that could be to stand guard, spy on the activities of a possible enemy, or prepare for a holy occasion.

Many congregations, following their Maundy Thursday liturgy, (foot washing, and/or stripping of the altar) hold a vigil, a watch until the start of the Great Vigil of Easter late on Holy Saturday. This can occur at the church or in people's homes. This year it will occur in our homes. It is not meant to be easy or routine. It is a time to be in conversation with God. While it may be a challenge, it can be a wonder-filled, grace-filled blessing.

The Words of Jesus

"Could you not keep awake one hour?" were the words of Jesus in the first Gethsemane.

Creating the Space at Home

A quiet place away from electrical gadgets. Weather permitting, it might even be outside in a porch, in the yard or garden.

Helping People

We suggest a portion of scripture or various Prayers of the People to be read during the time in our homes or wherever they may be at that time of day or night. Reading portions of the Psalms or any of the Gospels of the readings for Holy Week can be helpful. We pray for all people and especially for the people and the ministries of St. Luke's in the quad city area.

Recommended Psalms and Readings for Holy Week:
https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=B&season=Holy%20Week

O God, we give thanks for the goodness of creation, for the victory of resurrection, and for the grace of redemption. We praise you for leading us from darkness into light, and for bringing us through the waters of death into new life in you:
Lord, in your mercy, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That the church throughout Arizona and our world all celebrating the resurrection with joy, may bring the light of Christ into the world:
Lord, in your mercy, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That those preparing for baptism and all who are buried and raised with Christ, may grow in trust and hope:
Lord, in your mercy, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That our community, renewed through word and sacrament, may care for one another in love that surpasses understanding:
Lord, in your mercy, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That the people of the world, remembering the source of creation, may care for the waters of the earth and for all living things and recall that we are all connected to the One who created us all:
Lord, in your mercy, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That the leaders of all nations, knowing their power, may bring peace and justice to the world. We give thanks for the work of our clergy, staff and St. Luke's people to be leaders of peace and courage:
Lord, in your mercy, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That all who have commended themselves to us for any need and all who suffer, recalling the mystery of Christ crucified and risen, may be comforted:
Lord, in your mercy, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That all who serve in harm's way, may serve with compassion, moral strength and a sense of justice:
Lord, in your mercy, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

In thanksgiving for the saints, for the witnesses of the resurrection, for Christians who have sacrificed their lives for us, and for all who have passed over from the darkness of death into the glorious light of Christ:
Lord, in your mercy, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

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