

A Good Friday Prayer Vigil – beginning Thursday

From Ed Kelaher, Rector

When our Maundy Thursday service ends around 9 p.m. on April 18, I will be staying in our church praying until dawn. God has been urging me in my heart, as the spiritual representative of our congregation, to make a night-long devotion of prayer. In the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before He went to the Cross, "Jesus came back and found his disciples sleeping. So, he said to Peter, 'Could not any of you stay awake with me for just one hour?'" *Matthew 26:40* This holy verse is in significant part the inspiration for this vigil. And though to us I will start praying on Thursday, to the Hebrews it would be considered Good Friday already because their days spanned from sundown to sundown, not midnight to midnight. Thus, this will in actuality be a Good Friday Prayer Vigil.

This is something I have been called to do personally through my prayers over the past few weeks. I do not have any sense that I am to rally our people. My note here is not a call to arms or even an invitation to drum up a crowd of participants. This is merely a message to our parish family about what I am doing and why. If anyone feels called to pray, whether an hour or even all the night, you are welcome to come by the church. My cell phone number will be on our three principal entrance doors. If you call, I will come and warmly greet you and let you in.

There will be no formal materials or format involved. My intention is to be spiritually simple before the Lord Jesus remorsefully thanking Him for dying on the Cross for us as I fill my mind and heart with Holy Scriptures, prayers, and hymn verses to be lifted up to Him from the Bible, The Book of Common Prayer, and The Hymnal found in our pews.

Easter is coming and we will all be on hand for a magnificent and victorious celebration. But please don't let Easter be your next visit to the Lord's church. Being with Him for any of the Holy Week services will make true the phrase "the deeper the Lent, the higher the Easter". God bless you as you come and worship our Lord Jesus during this Week of all weeks.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed +".