

GOOD FRIDAY AT HOME SERVICE OF REFLECTION



Grace mercy and peace be with you: **And also with you.**

On this day, God of all tears, your death causes us to stop.

As we try to begin to understand the pain and humiliation of the cross,
to feel the pain of sin that pierced your heart all for loves sake

This day: **Give us eyes to see your love**

On this day, God of all tears, we gaze at your pierced side,
your love outpoured in blood and we weep

This day: **Give us eyes to see your love**

On this day, we painfully acknowledge our part in the sins you bore on the cross:

Each act of hate, each act of selfishness, each act of neglect, each unkindness

This day: **Pray for us, for we cannot find the words**

Lord have mercy: **Lord Have mercy**

Christ have mercy: **Christ have mercy**

John 18: 28-40 - Jesus is sentenced to death

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?' ³⁰ They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.' (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.

silent reflection

John 19: 1- 16 - Jesus receives a crown of thorns

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.' So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!' When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.' The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?' Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.' From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.'

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

silent reflection

John 19: 16b -25a - Jesus is crucified

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.' And that is what the soldiers did.

silent reflection

John 19: 25b-37 - Jesus dies

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

silent reflection

Address

Today Good Friday is the saddest and most Holy of Days as we follow Jesus' journey to the cross. As we watch with those who watched and feel the utter pain and agony he and those who loved him endured.

Knowing all the time it was our not his sins and burdens he was carrying- rather all that we, the world, might ever do, suffer and face; all diseases, humiliations, failures, acts of violence, neglects, abandonment, guilt and regrets.

He bore and continues to bare, even the deep tragedies of today, upon that cross.

Jesus wasn't a victim of a random set of events. He could have called on a whole army of angels to save him at any time to stop it. He could have washed his hands of us, turned his back and returned to the heavenly realm anytime he wanted. But the sad sacrificial journey was his purpose, his mission to accomplish, out of nothing more than God's unending love for us. In dying and then rising to new life he defeats sin and burden, he defeats death. And in so doing he won for us life, hope and reassurance, no matter what life throws at us.

That is what makes today good, because Good Friday doesn't stand alone, it stands with the glory and knowledge of Easter Morning.

But today we do walk that journey of heartache to the cross with Jesus. We see the cost, the price he was willing to pay out of love for us and through our sadness we bow our knees and whisper 'Thank-you. Thank-you for the cross my friend'. Amen.

Prayers including the Lord's Prayer

Loving Jesus.

We do not have the words to thank-you for your sacrifice,
for your love that held you to the cross.

Accept though we pray the sacrifice of our broken hearts for what you endured for us.
We praise you that it 'is finished' and for all that means for our earthly and eternal lives.

Blessed be God: **Blessed be God for ever.**

We lift to God those for whom we pray.....

Joining all our prayers together, at the foot of the cross we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Go in peace in the knowledge of God's deep love for you and knowing that Easter Day comes. **Amen**

