



Emmaus Road Anglican Church

Holy Saturday



Stations of the Cross
Prayer Guide





JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DIE

I - Jesus Is Condemned To Death

Matthew 27.20-26

(Mk 15:1-15)

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reflection:

Here Jesus is unjustly condemned to torture and death by Pilate. It is Pilate who, again and again, references Jesus as “King of Jews,” a phrase we have not heard since used by the Magi at Christ’s birth. (Mt 2:2). It was a dangerous title then, seen as a threat to Rome, and now the title “King of the Jews” was being used by the Jewish leaders to provoke Rome to condemn Christ.

In this passage we see Jesus suffering: betrayal, false accusations, injustice, mocking, torture, and the unjustified hatred of the crowd. The physical and emotional suffering was immense. Then in addition, he suffered as a rejected King, neither Israel nor Rome would submit to his good and right leadership.

Scriptures:

“Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” -Jn 3:3

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord, ’will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. - Mt 7:21

“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” -Isa 53: 3

Collect: Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy, but first he suffered pain, but entered not into glory before He was crucified; Mercifully grant that we, walking the Way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.



JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

II - Jesus Takes Up His Cross

Matthew 27.27-31

(Jn 19.13-17)

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reflection: After painful mocking and scourging, John describes Jesus actively, “Carrying His own cross, He went out to The Place of the Skull” (Jn 19:17). With this cross, Jesus walks the Via Dolorosa, The Way of Suffering; the same route he calls others to follow. The synoptic gospels focus on Jesus’s passivity as the soldiers “led him away to crucify him” (Matt. 27:31). Obedient to the will of the Father, Jesus takes each painful step bearing the physical and emotional weight of the cross.

As the story of Abraham’s sacrifice of Issac foreshadowed, now, the Son of God journeys with the wood on his back to the site of the sacrifice. He is the sacrificial lamb as is “led like a lamb to the slaughter” (Isa 53:7).

Scriptures:

“Then [Jesus] said to them all, ‘If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me’” -Lu 9:23 (NET).

“Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife” -Gen 22:6,

“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth” -Isa 53:7.

Collect: Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

III - Simon Helps Jesus To Carry His Cross



Luke 23.26

(Mt 16.24)

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

JESUS MADE US REDEEMED BY HIS
CROSS CARRIED BY ALL OF US

Reflection: Simon's life was changed in a moment as he was pressed into service to carry Christ's cross. As a pilgrim, coming into

Jerusalem with his sons for the Passover, he had providentially just happened to be at the right place to encounter and serve the Lamb of God. None of the disciples volunteered, but Simon was pressed into service, perhaps at first unwillingly, yet this moment marked and shaped Simon and his sons for the rest of their lives. Tradition tells us that both Simon and his sons became leaders in the early Church.

We too, at times find ourselves "pressed into service" by our circumstances, yet we too can discover that by carrying our cross we encounter Jesus and are transformed by Him.

Scriptures

"Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." -Mk 15:21

"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." -Jn 12:32

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." -Gal 6:2 (NIV)

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.
Amen.

IV - Jesus Meets The Women Of Jerusalem

Luke 23:27-28

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reflection: The women of Jerusalem were lamenting Jesus' impending death. Yet, Jesus redirects their sorrow.

He is walking through Jerusalem for the last time. This is God's holy city that he wept over in intercession— just nights before. As he staggers under the cross he grieves for these ones who have missed the day of their visitation. His very next prayer is from the cross: "Father forgive them, they know not what they do."

Scriptures:

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted." -Isa 53:4

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Rom 5:6-8

"And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, 'Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace!'" -Lu 19:41,42a

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS
GARMENTS

V - Jesus Is Stripped Of His Garments

John 19:23-24 (Mt 27:35)

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise
You because by Your holy cross You
have redeemed the world.

Reflection: *“The meager dignity, protection, and comfort from his clothing is stolen from him before he is to suffer and die – naked, in front of a crowd. Out of love for us, Jesus is made even more vulnerable and dehumanized.”* ~ Moyer

Jesus suffered the humiliation and indignity of nakedness so we might be clothed in righteousness. Foreshadowed in the Garden (Gen 3), God covers Adam and Eve's nakedness and shame by the shedding of animal blood. But now, the Father sacrifices his Son, and let him be stripped naked before all, so we might be clothed in his righteousness for all eternity.

Scriptures

“...they have pierced my hands and feet— I can count all my bones they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. - Ps 22:16b -18

“Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” - Rev 7:13,14

“He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.” - Rev 19:13

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender love for us you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon Himself our nature, and to suffer death upon The Cross, giving us an the example of His great humility: Mercifully grant us that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and come to share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever, Amen.



JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS
-THE CRUCIFIXION-

VI - Jesus Is Nailed To The Cross – The Crucifixion – *Luke 23:33-43*

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reflection:

Jesus is nailed to the cross. His arms were spread wide open and feet affixed below. He will hang on the cross for hours, slowly suffocating. Still, what was meant to be a shaming public spectacle fulfilled Jesus's mission. As he was lifted up, he drew all people to himself (Jn. 12:32).

Hung between two criminals, Jesus is punished although innocent. The responses of these two men diverge: one joined with the chorus insulting and demanding signs. The other man understood that he was deservedly guilty while Jesus "has done nothing wrong" (Lu. 23:41). Moreover, Jesus was treated as a criminal on our behalf, "wounded because of our rebellious deeds" (Isa. 53:5 NET).

Scriptures:

"He was wounded because of our rebellious deeds, crushed because of our sins; he endured punishment that made us well; because of his wounds we have been healed." -Isa 53:5, NET

"I will pour out on the kingship of David and the population of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication so that they will look to me, the one they have pierced. They will lament for him as one laments for an only son, and there will be a bitter cry for him like the bitter cry for a firstborn." Zech. 12:10, NET

"My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and feet." Ps 22:16, NLT

Collect: Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. Amen.



JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

VII – Jesus Dies On The Cross

Luke 23:44-46 (John 19:28-37)

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise
You because by Your holy cross You
have redeemed the world

Reflection:

Right from the beginning, from the incarnation, Jesus yielded himself to be emptied and surrendered to His Father's will. Now the final emptying, after the most horrific death, He releases His very life and commits His Spirit to the Father. The Creator and Source of all life, whose breath gave life to Adam, in these moments, breathes His last and surrenders to death. But no ordinary death.

"Although in the death of Christ the weakness of the flesh concealed for a short time the glory of the Godhead, and though the Son of God himself was disfigured by shame and contempt ...yet the heavenly Father did not cease to distinguish him by some marks, and during his lowest humiliation prepared some indications of his future glory, ... Thus the majesty of Christ was attested by the obscuration of the sun, by the earthquake, by the splitting of the rocks, and the rending of the veil, as if heaven and earth were rendering the homage which they owed to their Creator."² ~ Calvin

Scriptures

"Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God." - Ps 31:5

"Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." - Gen 2:7

"Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." Jn 13:1

Collect:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM
THE CROSS

VIII - Jesus Is Taken Down From The Cross

John 19: 38

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Reflection:

Joseph, who had been afraid to stand with Christ until now, went to Pilate and asked for Christ's body, intending to bury it in his own tomb. Nicodemus, also a part of the Jewish Sanhedrin, and likewise a timid follower of Christ, stepped up with Joseph, providing the extravagant amount of spices to anoint Christ's body for burial.

What caused them to become so bold? They felt that the body of Christ, even after being ravaged by the cross, must be cherished and honoured—they could not hold back their love for Him. This became Joseph and Nicodemus's act of costly devotion, an act similar to that of Mary of Bethany when she "wasted" costly, pure, nard on anointing Christ.

What moves us from self-preservation to bold love? Could it be that like Joseph or Nicodemus, when we truly witness the love of God displayed on the cross, that we too are moved to worship

Scriptures:

"Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume." - Jn 12:1-8

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."- Jn 3:14,15

Collect: Merciful God, whose servant Joseph of Arimathea with reverence and godly fear prepared the body of our Lord and Savior for burial and laid it in his own tomb: Grant to us, your faithful people, grace and courage to love and serve Jesus with sincere devotion all the days of our life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

IX Jesus Is Laid In The Tomb

John 19.40-42 (Mark 15:46-47)

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise
You because by Your holy cross You
have redeemed the world.

Reflection:

Jesus is laid in the tomb just as the Sabbath begins. He has completed the work of redemption; sin, the flesh, the devil, and even death itself, have been defeated. The Lamb of God has been sacrificed. Now, as He did after the creation of the world, He rests.

Scriptures:

“I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction!...” - Hos 13:14 (NKJV)

“And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.” - Gen 2:2

“For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.” - Rom 6:10

“So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.” - Heb 4:9,10

“It is finished.” - Jn 19:30

Collect:

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All scriptures quoted are from the ESV, unless otherwise noted.
Collects are from Book of Common Prayer 2019

Quotations:

1. Meggie Moyer from Three Holy Women Catholic Ministry
2. John Calvin's Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew

Reflections:

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