



PUDSEY PARISH CHURCH

St Lawrence and St Paul - Diocese of Leeds

A Liturgy for Good Friday

As we have prayed through Holy Week we now stop, we pause at the cross of Jesus.

This resource will take you through some Bible readings and thoughts which will take about an hour.

Reflection

- What has this Holy Week brought to Jesus and his followers?
- What has this Holy Week brought to us as a church family dispersed in our own homes?
- Acknowledge before God some of the feelings you have experienced.

Prayer

- Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading

- Jesus invites prayer: Matthew 26: 36-45

36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. 41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

42 He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. 44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

45 Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

Reflection

- This was a time of deep agony
 - Jesus said to the disciples “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.” The gospels don’t often describe any emotion of Jesus apart from compassion. Gethsemane was a significant event in the life of Jesus.
 - Jesus poured out his lament to God.
 - However great the darkness or pain in our lives; whatever trial or suffering we go through, Jesus understands because he experienced deep agony.
- This was a time of wrestling and resolution
 - Jesus’ prayer in the Garden is remarkable for its straightforward honesty. “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will” (v. 39).
 - Jesus knew the significance of his actions and the bigger picture of salvation. However, he also knew the suffering which he would experience.
 - But at the heart of Jesus’ prayer was ‘Yet not as I will, but as you will’. He rose from the prayer and returned to his disciples and the matter was settled.
- This was a time of weakness and failure
 - The disciples always let Jesus down. He had asked them to keep watch, but they fell asleep. It was night-time and they would have been tired. What Jesus wanted them to do was not difficult to understand and possible, but they let him down.

- We are the same. We do wrong things because of weakness, unwillingness, selfishness and carelessness.
- Jesus didn't give up on the disciples and he doesn't give up on us either.
- Spend a moment thanking Jesus for his love for us.

Reading

- Read Matthew 27:32:56 slowly

32 As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. 33 They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). 34 There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. 35 When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 36 And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. 37 Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS. 38 Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" 41 In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 42 "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. 45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). 47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah." 48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him." 50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They

came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and[e] went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

55 Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. 56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Reflection

- Grief is a difficult feeling to bear as it reminds us of the reality of pain and loss.
- How do we react when we see injustice in the world? In our community? In our own lives?
- Does our grief lead us to more compassion and try to help end suffering?
- How might we react to the two thieves either side of Jesus?
 - The 'good thief' could see that Jesus was innocent and proclaimed this. He saw the goodness of Jesus' preaching, teaching and healing.
 - At the moment of death the repentant thief declares his belief.
 - You may like to sing/say the words of the Taize chant:
 - Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
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Reading

- Read Matthew 27:57-66

57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb. The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made

secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”

65 “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Reflection

- Say the words of the Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer

- Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.