



Good Friday

Household Liturgy

Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

Opening Words

Today God makes common cause with our human suffering.

**We read the Scriptures, sing the hymns,
feel the feelings of the day Christ died.**

Suffering is not rational. It has no answer.

But in the cross God meets us in our suffering.

From this day forward we know that
there is nowhere we can go
where God is not with us.

God, into your hands we commend our spirits.

Quiet

Bible Song: Psalm 22:1, 7-8, 18-19

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?

All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.
"He trusts in the Lord," they say,
"let the Lord rescue him.
Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him."

They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.
But you, Lord, do not be far from me.
You are my strength;
come quickly to help me.

Bible Reading: Mark 15:25-39

It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: The King of the Jews. They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!"

In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

Quiet

Dwelling

The cross is the central symbol of our faith. Why? Why not the empty tomb? Why the cross?

Has the meaning of the cross changed for you over time?

Jesus was willing to die for the kingdom of God, but not kill for it. How does that shape you as one who follows Jesus?

Prayer

- for deep gratitude for the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross
- for our capacity to suffer with others
- for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit
- for those who wrestle with doubts
- for those who are dying
- for those who do not know you

Crucified Savior, on this dark day it seems crass and opportunistic to think of your death as an advantage to me. And yet, we call this Friday good because through your death, my old self is crucified, put to death, buried with you, and no longer rules. Today, I dedicate my life as an offering of gratitude to you. **Amen.**

Charge

Do not leave Jesus alone,
but pick up your own cross,
that God's way may be exalted and lifted up.

Blessing

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Revelation 5:12

Going Deeper.....

- Consider what objects and artwork in your home remind you of Jesus' life. Cover or put those items away until Easter.
- Put a cross in a space where you can sit and pray. If you don't have a cross, create one out of whatever you have at home. For a time, darken your home. Put away distractions. Silence noisy devices. Sit with the cross and meditate or pray...
 - What do you notice? How do you feel? What lamentations, sorrows, and prayers are you bringing to the cross? What do you hear when you listen to the silence?