

Good Friday April 18, 2025

Approach God with a Heart of Worship: from Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,

yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;

the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

All we, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;

and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The promise of our faith is that if we call on the name of the Lord, our God will remember our sin no more. Therefore, I confess my wrongdoing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ, at times I act as if I do not know you,

at times I say of you, "Away with him!" *John 19:15*

When I think of those times I weep

and ask you to forgive me. Amen.

[A time of silent confession.]

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Take heart, for you have a high priest, Jesus Christ, the son of God, who understands your human experience and sympathizes with your weakness. He deals gently with the ignorant and the wayward and is the source of our eternal salvation.

Litany of Remembrance for Christians

Let us remember Jesus: who, though rich, became poor and dwelt among us, who was mighty indeed, healing the sick and the troubled, who, as a teacher to his disciples, was their

companion and servant. **May I ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for me.** Let us remember Jesus who prayed for the forgiveness of those who rejected him and for

the perfecting of those who received him, who loved all people, and prayed for them, even if they denied and rejected him who hated sin because he knew the cost of pride and selfishness, of cruelty and hatred, both to people and to God. **May I ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done for me.** Let us remember Jesus, who humbled himself, obedient unto the cross. God has exalted him who has redeemed us from the bondage of sin and given us new freedom. **May I ever be grateful for Jesus the Christ and what he has done and continues to do for me.**

THE FIRST WORD

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34.

Read Psalm 51:1-14

Prayer on the First Word from the Cross

Almighty God, to whom your crucified Son prayed for the forgiveness of those who did not know what they were doing, grant that I, too, may be included in that prayer. Whether I sin out of ignorance or intention, be merciful to me and grant me your acceptance and peace: in the name of Jesus Christ, our suffering Savior. Amen.

THE SECOND WORD

"Today you will be with me in Paradise" Luke 23:43

Read John 14:1-6

Prayer on the Second Word from the Cross

O Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to the repentant the joy of paradise, enable me by the Holy Spirit to repent and to receive your grace in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

THE THIRD WORD

"Dear woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother." John 19:26-27

Read: Mark 3:31-35

Prayer on the Third Word from the Cross

O Blessed Savior, who in your hours of greatest suffering expressed compassion for your mother and made arrangements for her care, grant that I who seeks to follow your example may show our concern for the needs of others, reaching out to provide for those who suffer in our human family. Hear this our prayer for your mercy's sake. Amen.

THE FOURTH WORD

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46

Read: Psalm 22:1-11

Prayer on the Fourth Word from the Cross

Almighty God, who forsook your Son upon the cross showing the world your judgment upon human sin and guilt, grant me, upon hearing his cry, the grace to know and believe that I will

never be forsaken, that he is present with me even to the end of the age: for the sake of Jesus Christ who bore my sins on the cross. Amen.

THE FIFTH WORD

"I am thirsty." John 19:28

Read: Isaiah 55:1-5

Prayer on the Fifth Word from the Cross

O blessed Savior, whose lips were dry and whose throat was parched, grant me the water of life that I who thirst after righteousness may find it quenched by your love and mercy, leading us to bring this same relief to others. Amen.

THE SIXTH WORD

"It is finished." John 19:30

Read: Luke 13:31-35

Prayer on the Sixth Word from the Cross

O Lord Jesus Christ, who finished the work that you were sent to do, enable me by your Holy Spirit to be faithful to my call. Grant me strength to bear my cross and endure my sufferings, even unto death. Enable me to live and love so faithfully that I also become good news to the world, joining your witness. O Christ, in whose name I pray. Amen.

THE SEVENTH WORD

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46

Read: Luke 2:29-35

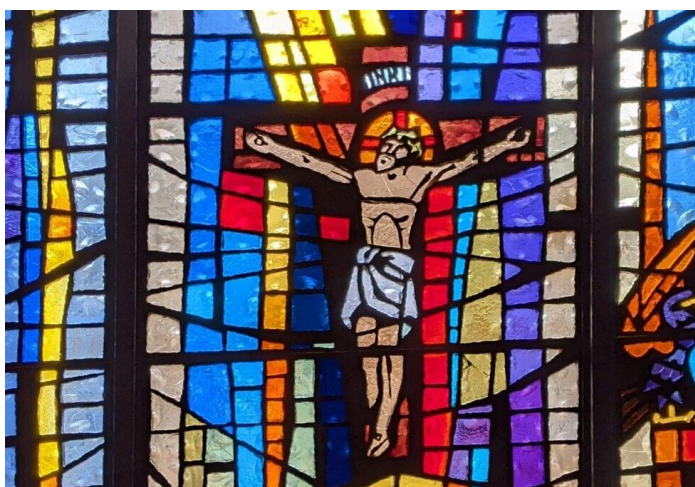
Prayer on the Seventh Word from the Cross

Father, into whose hands your Son Jesus Christ commended his spirit, grant that I too, following his example, may in all of life and at the moment of my death entrust my life into your faithful hands of love. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all. Amen.

Hymn to Reflect On: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

1 O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown!
O sacred Head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

2 What thou, my Lord, hast suffered
was all for sinners' gain.
Mine, mine was the transgression,



but thine the deadly pain.
 Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
 'Tis I deserve thy place.
 Look on me with thy favor,
 and grant to me thy grace.

3 What language shall I borrow
 to thank thee, dearest Friend,
 for this, thy dying sorrow,
 thy pity without end?
 Oh, make me thine forever,
 and should I fainting be,
 Lord, let me never, never
 outlive my love to thee.

4 Be near when I am dying,
 oh, show thy cross to me,
 and for my rescue, flying,
 come, Lord, and set me free!
 These eyes, new faith receiving,
 from Jesus shall not move,
 for one who dies believing
 dies safely, through thy love.



Question for Reflection

The cross is the central symbol of our faith. Why do you think that is? Has its meaning changed for you over time?

How has your faith in Jesus as your savior changed your own life? How has it changed your life with other people?

As you prepare to celebrate Easter, what thoughts about Good Friday do you want to keep close to your heart?