

10th April 2020



Prayers & Reflections

Good Friday

**"My God, my God, why have
you forsaken me?"**

Psalm 22:1 & Matthew 27:46

COLLECT FOR GOOD FRIDAY

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.

COMING TO THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY

I want to remind you, my friends...
Christ died for our sins according to
the scriptures. *1Corinthians15:1,3b*

Sin is no trivial thing. Death came
into the world because of it; and it
took the death of Jesus Christ – the
eternal Son of God – to overcome it.

So... Let us keep our eyes fixed on
Jesus, on whom our faith depends
from beginning to end. He did not
give up because of the cross! On
the contrary... he thought nothing
of the disgrace of dying on the cross.

Hebrews 12:2a

This is what love is: it is not that we
have loved God, but that he loved us
and sent his Son to be the means by
which our sins are forgiven.

1John 4:10



When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

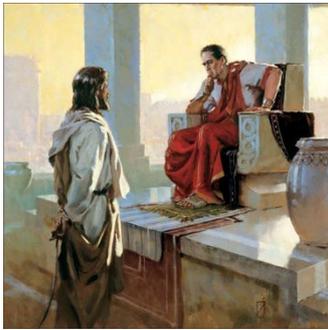
Forbid me Lord that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to His blood

See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and Sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all
Watts

JESUS BEFORE PILATE

In Jerusalem, at Passover time, Jesus
– the one who will one day judge
the world - allowed himself to be
judged and condemned.



Jesus stood before the Roman governor, who questioned him. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked.

"So you say," answered Jesus. But he said nothing in response to the accusations of the chief priests and elders.

The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask Pilate to set Barabbas free and have Jesus put to death.

When Pilate saw that it was no use to go on, but that a riot might break out, he took some water, and washed his hands in front of the crowd.

Pilate set Barabbas free for them; and after he had Jesus whipped, he handed him over to be crucified.

We may think that if we saw a perfect person, we'd love and admire him. But on this day crowds saw Jesus and hated him.

IF I WAS THERE *Bonar*

I see the crowd in Pilate's hall,
their furious cries I hear;
their shouts of "Crucify!" appall,
their curses fill mine ear.
And of that shouting multitude
I feel that I am one,
and in that din of voices rude
I recognize my own.

I see the scourges rend the flesh
of God's beloved Son;
and as they smite I feel afresh
that I of them am one.

Around the Cross the throng I see
that mock the Sufferer's groan,
yet still my voice it seems to be,
as if I mocked alone.

'Twas I that shed that sacred Blood,
I nailed him to the Tree,
I crucified the Christ of God,
I joined the mockery.
Yet not the less that Blood avails
to cleanse me from sin,
and not the less that Cross prevails
to give me peace within.

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

They came to a place called Golgotha, which means, "The Place of the Skull." There they offered Jesus wine mixed with a bitter substance; but after tasting it, he would not drink it.



They crucified Jesus and then divided his clothes among them by throwing dice. After that they sat there and watched him. Above his head they put the written notice of the accusation against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then they crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left



Soldiers stand guard. There is no hope of rescue. Suffering immeasurably, shamed intolerably, broken in body and spirit, Jesus hangs in shame awaiting death.

Passers-by throw insults and condescending sneers. Even the bandits who had been crucified with him insulted him.

The man who saved people from sickness, demons, hunger, and even death, hangs helpless. If Jesus is to save others, he cannot save himself.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

THE LOOK *Newton*

I saw one hanging on a tree
 In agony and blood
 Who fixed His loving eyes on me
 As near His cross I stood
 And never till my dying breath
 Will I forget that look
 It seemed to charge me with His death
 Though not a word He spoke
 My conscience felt and owned the guilt
 And plunged me in despair.
 I saw my sins His blood had spilt
 And helped to nail Him there
 But with a second look He said
 "I freely all forgive

This blood is for your ransom paid
 I died that you might live."

Thus while His death my sin displays
 For all the world to view
 Such is the mystery of grace
 It seals my pardon too
 With pleasing grief and mournful joy
 My spirit now is filled
 That I should such a life destroy
 Yet live by Him I killed.

Forever etched upon my mind
 Is the look of Him who died
 The Lamb I crucified.
 And now my life will sing the praise
 Of pure atoning grace
 That looked on me and gladly took my
 place.

JESUS IS ABANDONED

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?"

Matthew 27:45-46

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
 so far from my cries of anguish?
 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
 by night, but I find no rest.

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.'

I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted within me.
My mouth is dried up like a
potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof
of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.

Psalm 22 - extracts

JESUS DIES

Jesus called out with a loud voice,
“Father, into your hands I commit
my spirit.” When he had said this,
he breathed his last.



The
centurion, seeing what had
happened, praised God and said,
“Surely this was a righteous man.”
When all the people who had
gathered to witness this sight saw
what took place, they beat their
breasts and went away. But all
those who knew him, including the
women who had followed him from
Galilee, stood at a distance,
watching these things.

Matthew 27:50, 54-55

WORSHIP JESUS *Hardy*

O dearest Lord, Thy sacred head
With thorns was pierced for me:
O pour Thy blessing on my head
That I may think for Thee.

O dearest Lord, Thy sacred hands
With nails were pierced for me;
O shed Thy blessing on my hands
That they may work for Thee.

O dearest Lord, Thy sacred feet
With nails were pierced for me;
O pour Thy blessings on my feet
That they may follow Thee.

O dearest Lord, Thy sacred heart
With spear was pierced for me;
O pour Thy Spirit in my heart
That I may live for Thee.

Lord God, hear our prayers.
Give us grace that we willingly take
up our cross to follow you.
Forgive our greed and underhand
actions.
Praise you – for we escape death
when we see Christ who died in
our place.
Lord, graciously hear us. Amen.

BELIEVE TODAY BECAUSE...



‘Christ himself bore our sins’ in his
body on the cross, so that we might
die to sins and live for righteousness;
‘by his wounds you have been healed.’
For ‘you were like sheep going astray,’
but now you have returned to the
Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1Peter 2:24-25