

READING and PRAYERS for GOOD FRIDAY - 2ND APRIL 2021

GOSPEL: MARK 15.6-39

The condemnation and death of Jesus

⁶ At the Passover festival Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷ Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸ So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹ Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' ¹⁰ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹² Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' ¹³ They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' ¹⁴ Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶ Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' ¹⁹ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰ After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²² Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' ²⁷ And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!' ³¹ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. ³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the

afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYERS

Let us come to our Lord Jesus, who died that we might live and who intercedes forever for us and for the whole world before the Father.

Lord Jesus, you embraced the cross that we might learn to give our own lives for the sake of love. Bless those who have given unsparingly of themselves in this pandemic, and give us strength to be givers as well as receivers. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Innocent captive, you submitted to the judgement of sinners - the cruel, the dishonest and the cowardly. Be with all the unjustly accused, and with all who suffer for freedom and truth. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Most merciful Saviour, you have known the pain of abandonment. Be present with all who suffer, and comfort and strengthen those in pain and desolation. Be with the anxious, the lonely and the housebound, and with all healers and carers. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

In the hour of your death you heard the penitent thief, and opened to him the door of paradise. Help us to confess our sins and failings honestly before you. Unburden all who are weighed down by guilt, and offer to the suicidal and despairing the light of hope. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lamb of God, through your blood you have brought to all people the crown of life. Bring comfort to the dying and peace to those who have died, and to all who grieve for them. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, by your wounded hands: teach us diligence and generosity.
By your wounded feet: teach us steadfastness and perseverance.
By your wounded and insulted head: teach us patience, clarity and self-mastery.
By your wounded heart: teach us love, teach us love, teach us love,
O Master and Saviour. **Amen.**

Lord, by your love, revealed in the cross: **set our love free. Amen.**