

HOLY WEEK MORNING REFLECTIONS

TUESDAY 7TH APRIL 2020

1. Prayer

My Lord, my Guide,
During Holy Week, I ask You to lead me.
I will listen closely deep within myself
And ask You for strength to change and grow.

2. Opening Hymn: When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

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

Forbid it Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of 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.

3. Scripture Reading

After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." [John 13:21](#)

4. Message: Painful Betrayal

5. Meditate on Matthew 26:47-56

As you listen to the readings, notice words/phrases that catch your attention, or a picture/image that comes to mind. Bring these before God in prayer. Take your time in His presence. Respond to Him as His Spirit leads you. You may want to draw or write or just be creative in your own way.

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." ⁴⁹ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵² "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" ⁵⁵ At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But this has all taken

place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

6. Prayer

My dear suffering and rejected Lord, I do love You but I also know that I cause Your Heart to be troubled by my betrayal. Help me to see my sin honestly this Holy Week. In seeing it, may I let go of that which keeps me from loving You more deeply, so as to walk with You to the Cross to share in Your glorious triumph. Jesus, I trust in You.

7. Sharing Points [Find a partner to share.]

How has God spoken to you through the Scriptures given? How would you want to respond?

8. Closing Hymn: Amazing Love

My Lord, what love is this, that pays so dearly,
That I the guilty one may go free!

Ch: *Amazing love, O what sacrifice,
The Son of God giv'n for me.
My debt he pays and my death he dies,
That I might live, that I might live.*

And so they watched him die, despised, rejected
But O the blood he shed flowed for me!
Ch;

And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;
Come wash your guilt away, live again!
Ch:

9. Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for your amazing love. Thank You for speaking to each one of us, so that You can draw us closer to You, that we may grow to know you more intimately and to love You more deeply and dearly.

Lord, thank You for Your abiding presence in these trying times. With every piece of bad or fake news we rest in the knowledge that You are in control, holding us in the palm of Your hand. So we look forward to another day with You. Amen