



St Paul with All Saints Church, Chatham

Holy Week Reflections

**Monday to Friday
6 - 10th April 2020**



Join us as we walk through Holy Week together using the Lectionary readings from the Psalms and Gospel of John.

Monday 6th April 2020

Opening Prayer

Jesus, you commanded waves to be still and calmed a stormy sea. Quieten now our restless hearts that they may find rest in you. We recognise the noise inside us and the noise around us. We acknowledge them but seek now, to know your presence, in the midst of all that might distract us.

Amen.

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Psalm 35:5-11

Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, Lord, preserve both people and animals. How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast in the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart. May the foot of the proud not come against me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.

Saying Sorry

Father we are thankful for your unfailing love.

Cleans us from our pride and bring us into your eternal light.

Amen.

Reading: John 12:1-11

Read the scripture through slowly, twice and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal its truth to you today.

Reflection:

Mary anointed the feet of Jesus in an act of worship.

She is saying that:

- Jesus is her King and Saviour – she loosened her hair like the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50 to make her confession, knowing she needs the forgiveness of a Saviour.
- Jesus must die – since the Jews anointed corpses with perfume before they were buried.

Jesus was only six days away from death and the Holy Spirit led her **worship** to focus on the fact that this man must die.

*Spend a moment reflecting on this generous act of Mary.
How do you approach Jesus this Holy Week?*

Prayers

Ever listening, ever watchful, ever loving God, we rest in you.

Spend time praying for those you know who are struggling at this time...

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Conclusion:

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross, set us free to serve him with joy. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Tuesday 7th April 2020

Opening Prayer

The world belongs to God, the earth and all its people. How good it is, how wonderful to live together in unity. Love and faith come together; justice and peace join hands. If Christ's disciples keep silent, the stones would shout aloud.

Open our lips O God, and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Psalm 71:1-8

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn your ear to me and save me. Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel. For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. From my birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you. I have become a sign to many; you are my strong refuge. My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendour all day long.

Silence

Spend some time thanking God for his mercies

Reading: John 12:20-36 Reflection:

Jesus cries out to glorify the name of God and God booms back that he will be glorified as much through Jesus' death as he had been through Jesus' life. Because the one seed died, he caused many seeds to sprout. He died so that we could live and take the message to the world.

Ask Jesus: 'Why did you have to die?' and wait for his response.

Prayers

We approach the throne of God with boldness and pray

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.

We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs, for as long as it takes wherever you call us.

Pray for those who are making daily sacrifices in their lives, for the sake of others.

Conclusion:

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross, set us free to serve him with joy. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Wednesday 8th April 2020

Opening Prayer

God above us – trees, birds and sunshine,
stars and moonlight.

God beneath us – earth, rocks and rivers,
roots and caverns.

God around us – seas, wind and cities,
animals and people.

God within us – hope, tears and laughter,
love and wonder.

God above us, God beneath us, God around us,
God within us. **We celebrate that you made us, you
love us and you call us to work and rest with you.**

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Psalm 70

Hasten, O God, to save me; come quickly, Lord, to help me. May those who want to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. May those who say to me, ‘Aha! Aha!’ turn back because of their shame.

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, ‘The Lord is great!’ But as for me, I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God.

You are my help and my deliverer; Lord, do not delay.

Let's cry out to God AND praise his mighty name.

John 13:21-32

The scene of the last supper is one of deep intimacy, friends sharing a meal together. And yet Jesus is flanked by love and betrayal. Judas was about to betray Jesus and no-one, but Jesus was aware (v 28). Judas was tempted by the devil and he allowed the darkness to enter his soul. He went out into the night (v30), into the darkness.

We read that Jesus was troubled in spirit' (v21).

As Tom Wright says.

'There is no shame in spirit-trouble; it's what you get when you're a foot washer, a generous-love person, open to deep friendship and to the serious wounds that only friends can give....However, the light will go on shining in the darkness and the darkness will not master it.'

Tom Wright, *John for everyone, pt 2* (2002, SPCK)

Pause to reflect

Prayers

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
give us your peace.

Let us bless the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Thursday 9th April 2020

Opening Prayer

O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths will declare your praise
Create in us a clean heart, O God
and put a new and right spirit within us.
Do not cast us away from your presence,
and do not take your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation
and sustain in us a willing spirit.

Amen

Psalm 116: 1, 10-end

I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. I trusted in the Lord when I said, ‘I am greatly afflicted’; in my alarm I said, ‘Everyone is a liar.’ What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants. Truly I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains. I will sacrifice a thank-offering to you and call on the name of the Lord. I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord – in your midst, Jerusalem.

John 13:1-17, 34-35

Learning lessons in humility:

- We see how Jesus acted...he allowed the Father to be in charge (read Ch 12:49-50)
- We see who Jesus is – ‘he had come from God and was returning to God’(v 3)
- We see who we are – we need cleansing (v 8& 9)
- We see how we must act – we too are called to be humble (v15) and love others (v34-35)

Spend some time in confession and allow Jesus to wash you clean.

What have you learned about humility today?

How can you do to others as Jesus has done to you?

Prayers - Spend time

- Thanking God
- Praying for our world
- Praying for our nation
- Praying for our community
- Praying for our church

The Lord's Prayer

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us faith to know and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way to the cross, which is the path of glory. **Amen.**

Good Friday 10th April 2020

This day we meditate on the death of Jesus and bring you the Psalm and reading for today and ask that you ponder the scripture and ask for the Holy Spirit to bring fresh revelation from God today.

Have a pen and some paper ready as we enter into God's word on Good Friday.

Psalm 22

As you read through, how many times do you 'see' Jesus in Psalm 22?

Including the final verse.....v 33 He has done it!

John 18 & 19 – Reflections

Read John 18 verses 1-14 Judas betrays Jesus

- Have you been betrayed by someone?
- Have you ever done good only to have harm done to you?
- Did the betrayal lead you to humiliation or suffering?

Spend time pondering these questions and consider writing their names and brief thoughts on a piece of paper.

Read verses 15-19, 25-27 Peter's denials

- Have you ever been let down?
- Have you ever let anyone down?

Spend time pondering these questions and consider writing their names and brief thoughts on your piece of paper.

Read verses 19-24 High priest questions Jesus

The proud arrogance of authority...

- Have you ever been bullied?

Jesus answered with truth but at a cost

- Have you ever bullied anyone?

Spend time pondering these questions and consider writing their names and brief thoughts on your piece of paper.

Read verses 28-40 Jesus denied justice before Pilate

- Have you ever been denied justice?
- What were the consequences for you?

Spend time pondering these questions and consider the names you have written down already.

P.T.O

Read John 19: 16-30 Jesus crucified

- What were the consequences for Jesus being denied justice?
- What was his response?

Spend time reflecting on the sacrifice of Jesus.

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

We are called to be one with Jesus in his suffering, I invite you, therefore, to forgive as Jesus forgave.

Consider placing your pieces of paper at the foot of the cross (physically if you have one) or scrunching them up and throwing them in the bin as an act that Jesus has dealt with them.

Final Prayer

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; Who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit. One God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

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