

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 2, 2021

REFLECTION

PRAYER ⁱ

Gracious God, on this day we gather to remember the suffering death of Jesus. He was despised and rejected, oppressed and afflicted, yet he was prepared to bear our griefs.

We come overwhelmed by the depth of Jesus' love for us, and his commitment to defeat evil, even when that meant his own suffering and his own death.

In his willingness to make us righteous, he poured himself out to death, even death on a cross, and so, in response to such love and sacrifice, we commit ourselves as his disciples to overcome evil with good, suffering with wholeness, and oppression with justice. In Jesus' name, we pray. *Amen*

HYMN – **Were You There** ⁱⁱ

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

THE STORY OF JESUS DEATH

The Arrest

Mark 14:43-50

Before The Council

Mark 14:53-64

Peter Denies Jesus

Mark 14:66-72

Jesus Before Pilate

Mark 15:1-15

PRAYER

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ, we see the fulfilment of your will for humanity.

A vision where all people live together in harmony and freedom.

Jesus lived with love and compassion, forgiveness and healing, inscribed on his heart, and revealed in all his actions.

May your Spirit be strong to sustain these qualities in us so that we can confront the hate in human hearts and in the world around us.

Lord Jesus Christ, despised and rejected, Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief;

be present with all those, young and old, who bear the pain of the world.

Strengthen them and uplift them with the knowledge that you were prepared to die to overcome evil with a love that will never die. *Amen*

The Crucifixion Of Jesus

Mark 15:16-32

The Death And Burial Of Jesus

Mark 15:33-46

PRAYER

As Jesus said "It is finished", we give thanks for his life of love and his painful death for us and for our world.

Even at the point of death, he cared about others.

O God, give us like minds and as deep a care for others, as we commit ourselves and all those dear to us, into your hands.

We especially uphold before you those who are sick and suffering, those for whom we have special concern.

May they know that neither death nor life nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Lord Jesus Christ, wounded and crushed;

You gave your life that we might live.

HYMN: O Sacred Head Now Woundedⁱⁱⁱ

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.

How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;
how does thy face now languish, which once was bright as morn!
Thy grief and bitter passion were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.

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.

Lord, be my consolation; shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall never move;
for all who die believing die safely in thy love.

CONCLUDING PRAYER:

We give you thanks, O God, for the amazing love of Jesus Christ -
the love that was wounded for our transgressions;

The love that was tortured that we might know peace.

The love that was crucified that we might live forever.

The love that rightly demands our souls, our lives, our all.

Let us go into the world revealing that love in all its fullness.

Amen

We adore you, O Christ and we bless you.

by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

ⁱ The prayers in this service are written by Rev. Dr. Moira B. Laidlaw, Australia

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ⁱⁱⁱ ELW Hymn 531. In The Public Domain