

Passiontide Promise

Daily Morning Prayer During the Last Two
Weeks of Lent

Week 2: Holy Week



St Mary's LINTON

Rooted in God. Rooted in Community



On Tuesday - reflection by Rebecca

*O, dearly, dearly has he loved, and we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming blood, and try his works to do (C F Alexander)*

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving power among the nations.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief
your only Son was lifted up
that he might draw the whole world to himself.
May we walk this day in the way of the cross
and always be ready to share its weight,
declaring your love for all the world.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom;**

(Taizé community)

Tuesday Psalm 142 and a reading from Isaiah

I cry aloud to the Lord;
to the Lord I make my supplication.

2 I pour out my complaint before him
and tell him of my trouble.

3 When my spirit faints within me, you know my path;
in the way wherein I walk have they laid a snare for me.

4 I look to my right hand, and find no one who knows me;
I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for my soul.

5 I cry out to you, O Lord, and say:
'You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

6 'Listen to my cry, for I am brought very low;
save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

7 'Bring my soul out of prison,
that I may give thanks to your name;
when you have dealt bountifully with me,
then shall the righteous gather around me.'

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53.4-6

Reflection



Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

The reading for Jesus meeting the woman of Jerusalem is longer than this but I wanted to focus on the following from Luke 23: 27-28:’²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.’ This follows Simon of Cyrene being given the cross to carry for Jesus.

Jesus had just been sentenced to death by Pilate. He had been beaten and watched as the people who welcomed him only a few days before on Palm Sunday turned against him and asked for his life instead of a man who had committed murder. Yet Jesus saw the anguish of the women and felt their sorrow. He was filled with compassion for them, he had not spoken during the beatings but he chose to speak to comfort them as they mourned what had and what would happen to him.

It was with compassion that Jesus fulfilled the passage in Isaiah that we heard. Jesus suffered death to make us whole and healed of sin. Humanity turned away from God and needed saving- Jesus accepted his role as an innocent, taking on the weight of sin that kept us from God, recreating the link to the father. The ultimate example of compassion.

As Townsend writes in the song ‘Compassion’

And with compassion for the hurting,
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow
And shared in our tears,
Heard the sigh of the weary,
Let the children draw near.

Practising compassion is an important aspect of our lives as Christians. It is the action of both sympathising and empathising with others. It is a subject widely discussed and talked about as an aspect of becoming more Christ like, which will bring us closer to God.

Compassion is an emotion that is a sense of shared suffering, most often combined with a desire to alleviate or reduce the suffering of another; to show special kindness to those who suffer. Compassion essentially arises through empathy, and is often characterized through actions, wherein a person acting with compassion will seek to aid those they feel compassionate for.

I am going to end with a suggestion of an exercise from the Dalai Lama- to help get us in the right mind for showing compassion to others. In the morning say the following to yourself: "Today I am fortunate to have woken up, I am alive, I have a precious human life, I am not going to waste it. I am going to use all my energies to develop myself, to expand my heart out to others, I am going to have kind thoughts towards others, I am not going to get angry or think badly about others, I am going to benefit others as much as I can."

Rebecca Richardson

Tuesday Week Two: VIII Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

*He falls and stumbles with us, hurt again,
But still he holds the road and looks in love
On all of us who look on him. Our pain
As close to him as his. These women move
Compassion in him as he does in them.
He asks us both to weep and not to weep.
Women of Gaza and Jerusalem,
Women of every nation where the deep
Wounds of memory divide the land
And lives of all your children, where the mines
Of all our wars are sown: Afghanistan,
Iraq, the Cote d'Ivoire... he reads the signs
And weeps with you, and with you he will stay
Until the day he wipes your tears away.*







Malcolm Guite

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

We preach Christ crucified,
the power of God and the wisdom of God.
By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
God forbid that I should glory,
save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

cf 1 Corinthians 1 and Galatians 6

**The word of the cross is folly
to those who are perishing,
but to those who are being saved
it is the power of God.**

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, 
who has come to his people and set them free.
2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, 
born of the house of his servant David.
3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old 
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
4 To show mercy to our ancestors, 
and to remember his holy covenant.
5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: 
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
6 Free to worship him without fear, 
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**The word of the cross is folly
to those who are perishing,
but to those who are being saved
it is the power of God.**

With faith and love and in union with Christ,
let us offer our prayer before the throne of grace.

Have mercy on your people,
for whom your Son laid down his life:

God of love, hear our prayer

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,
and have pity on those torn apart by division:

God of love, hear our prayer

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake,
and deliver them from evil:

God of love, hear our prayer

Look in mercy upon all who suffer,
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:
God of love, hear our prayer

Bring comfort to the dying,
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:
God of love, hear our prayer

Give rest to the departed
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting:
God of love, hear our prayer

Let us commend the world, for which Christ died,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Collect – Holy Week:

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Standing at the foot of the cross,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The 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.

Acknowledgements:

Material from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included here, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 and published by Church House Publishing.

The "Stations of the Cross" sonnet sequence is Copyright © Malcolm Guite 2012 and reproduced by kind permission.

Images – Public Domain