

Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...

when Jesus...

was praying alone..." (Luke 9:18)



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

Passion Sunday - Holy Week Year A

We Gather: In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. The stand or table is draped with Red. Palms might decorate the space. A basket of palms might be ready to be distributed as the community enters and are held as the reading of the Gospel takes place.

Leader: O Lord, do not leave me alone,
All: My strength make haste to help me.

Leader: I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters,
All: And praise you where they are assembled.

We Listen: The Gospel. Matthew 27: 50-54 Shorter part of the Sunday Gospel

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

"The centurion, together with the others, said, 'Truly, this man was God's son.'" Mt 27: 54

Commentary: This is the punchline of Matthews Passion as he stresses the truth that Jesus is the Messiah, the one expected to save Israel, indeed, the Son of God. Matthew writes, knowing that the religious Jewish community will not be able to accept this belief. Who then will believe? It is the Roman centurion and other gentiles who are convinced by the experience of the passion and death. Further, these are the people who have arrested, tortured and executed the "king of the Jews". But the gift of faith is no respecter of past history, sins and conflicting cultures. Faith comes as insight, stirred by the Spirit. It is no respecter of persons, status and nation. It demands acceptance and it stirs the receiver to speak out loudly of the transformation of worldview it brings. Truly the Divinity itself!

We Respond: *"The centurion, together with the others..."*

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing.

- Am I ready, even in my doubts, to take a risk and declare Jesus as my Saviour ?
- Will I join with others, even if laughed at, to declare my faith in this loving God?

Song: **We Remember** (Marty Haugen-AOV1) or **Song of the Cross** (S H-Taylor-Spirit & Song)

We Go Forth:

God, you have offered life to the full to all your children. May we be proclaimers of this hope and promise as we speak of your love to others. May we have energy and courage to proclaim Christ, word and sacrament of human fulfilment. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: You who fear the Lord give praise!

All: Give God the glory forever!