

Pray together: *Lord Jesus, crucified and risen, have mercy on us. Help us to walk in your steps.*

Hymn - *Behold, behold the wood of the Cross, On which is hung our salvation. O come, let us adore. (x2)*

The Way of the Cross

The Cross: A Transforming Meeting Point



6. The Cross - Our Call to Mission

"Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." Mark 10:21

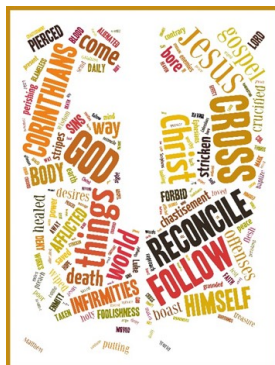
Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:57-62

Reflection:

Silent Prayer: *When the love of God is poured out to us through the Cross of Christ, it empowers us to do remarkable things in God's name. Where will the Cross of Christ take you and me? What will the love of God, as revealed by the Cross, empower us to do? Am I willing to allow myself to receive the love of God to such a degree that I cannot contain it? Am I willing to see, despite all appearances, that the stranger before me is the Lord?*



Our Father ...

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Final Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, your passion and death is the sacrifice that unites earth and heaven and reconciles all people to you. Your Cross is the ultimate symbol of your love and mercy. May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries follow in your steps and so come to share your glory in heaven where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.

And may the Lord bless us and keep us always in his care – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen.

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General Welcome and Introduction

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Introduction

Heavenly Father, we pause from the cares and concerns of our daily lives to spend a few moments reflecting upon the events surrounding the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus and the power of the Cross. Send your spirit into our hearts, increase our faith and deepen our hope in the resurrection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen

1. The Cross – The meeting point of Scandal & Hope

"... but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles" 1Cor:23

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All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53:2-12

Short Reflection

Silent prayer: *Sometimes we live as though God does not see us, yet we know that God is always present, whether or not we acknowledge him. Look over your life and try to see where God has revealed himself at various moments in your life. Then move confidently into the future, assured of God's providential care for you.*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we for-give those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, amen

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2. The Cross – Relationship & Prayer

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all unto me.” Jn12 32

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All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture Reading: John 16:16-24

Reflection:

Silent Prayer: *We too often think of the Cross of Christ as something we have to get through, yet we get through for the purpose of getting into it. The Cross represents only one thing for us, complete, entire, absolute identification with the Lord Jesus Christ. His life, mission & ministry. This leads us to prayer, into a deeper relationship with God who is with us always – even when we do not realise it. And deepening this relationship leads us to recognising Jesus crucified in our world today. Where do you meet Jesus daily? How do you bring this to prayer?*

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3. The Cross – A Radical call to Forgiveness & Reconciliation

“..and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” Colossians 1:20

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All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:39-43

Reflection

Silent Prayer: *We all have our blind spots. When someone disappoints us or harms someone close to us, our inner judge tempts us to punish the offender, to nurse wounded egos, to exact payment for the perceived offense. At such times, passages of Scripture like this one press like a crown of thorns upon the head, or like nails driven through the feet. It can be tempting to turn a deaf ear to truth; it is so much more immediately gratifying to follow where our fallen passions move us, instead of rushing to reconcile ourselves with our brother or sister.*



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4. The Cross as a symbol of God’s Compassion & Love for us

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 John 4:10

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All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture Reading: Mk 15: 16-33

Reflection:

Silent Prayer: *Jesus died for you, take up your Cross. First of all welcome the peace of God, believing that God welcomes us without any preconditions. It is not only that he accepts us as we are, but he loves each and every one of us deeply, madly, one might even say, and for all time. Jesus came to reveal this love of God. Forget the failings of the past. Don’t worry about what tomorrow will bring. Open yourself to God’s will for your life, with all its unsettling possibilities.*



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5. The Cross in Our Community

“He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let them deny themselves, and take up their cross daily, and follow Me.” Luke 9:23

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All: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:46-54

Reflection:

Silent Prayer: *We can be blind in many ways to suffering happening around us. We can be too busy to even notice the voices calling for help or if we do we can be numb thinking we can do nothing about situations. The Cross shows God’s love for us— recognise that God loves you, brings you peace, touches your life and the lives of others & this inner peace leads us to transform our world!! How attentive are we to the voices of need around us? Do we notice those who have no voice? Are we aware of our connectedness to others?*



Our Father ...