

Reflections for Good Friday

These are based around our east window. All of them have a bible reading and reflection. It is suggested that after each reflection, there is a period of silence to reflect on it.

Prayer (Collect) for Good Friday

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus
we see the cost of sin
and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear
may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Mary

Luke 2:27-35: Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul.'

Reflection

Picture yourself as Mary. You look at your son upon the cross, you stop for the first time in days and reflect. Reflect and remember the events of the last few days. You also reflect on your son's life and you remember the words spoken by an old man when your son was just 40 days old. **"And a sword will pierce your own soul"** and realise this is exactly what you are feeling, this is what he meant.

Peter

Matthew 26:69-75 - Peter's Denial of Jesus

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, 'You also were with Jesus the Galilean.' ⁷⁰ But he denied it before all of them, saying, 'I do not know what you are talking about.' ⁷¹ When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.'^[a] ⁷² Again he denied it with an oath, 'I do not know the man.' ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.' ⁷⁴ Then he began to curse, and

he swore an oath, 'I do not know the man!' At that moment the cock crowed.⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.



Reflection

Picture yourself as Peter. You had followed Jesus for a period of time and when Jesus asked you who do you say that I am, you respond saying **"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God"** (Matt 16:16).; but last night you deny that you even knew Jesus. What are your feelings? Shame? Fear that someone will point out that last night you denied him? Is this us? Do we proclaim that we know Jesus some days but deny him others?



Soldiers

Matthew 27:27-31 - The Soldiers Mock Jesus

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters,^[a] and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' ³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Reflection

You are part of the group of soldiers. You help to make the crown of thorns to put on this man's head, the man who is known as "the king of the Jews". You join in the mocking of him. How often do we go along with others?

Jesus;

Matthew 27:32-44 - The Crucifixion of Jesus

³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;^[b] ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by derided^[c] him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴²'He saved others; he cannot save himself.^[d] He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son."' ⁴⁴The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

Reflection

There is a Green Hill Far Away
Without a city wall
Where the dear Lord was crucified
Who died to save us all

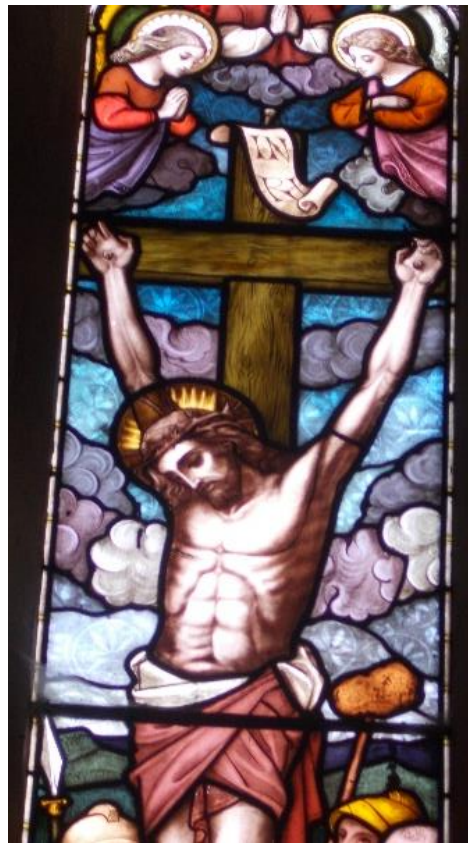
We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear;
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiv'n,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heav'n,
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heav'n, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

Mrs C. F. Alexander



Spear:

John 19:28-37

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵ (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows^[a] that he tells the truth.) ³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' ³⁷ And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'



Reflection

A spear is used to pierce Jesus side instead of the soldiers, breaking Jesus' bones, why is this detail important you wonder, but it is very important, as it refers to the old testament, In *Zechariah 12:10* and *Isaiah 53:5* it states that one will be pierced, for us. An object normally used for violence, but in this case, it is used to fulfil two Old Testament Prophecies.



Centurion

Matthew 27:50-54

⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Reflection

Picture yourself as the centurion. You are an experienced soldier who has seen many crucifixions, however you have heard talk about one of the men being crucified today, that he isn't the usual criminal, the plaque above his head describes him as the "King of the Jews". You watch him die and as you watch, you look at him, you realise that there is something different. He cries out and then there is an earthquake. You realise that what is said is true. This man was God's son.

Joseph of Arimathea

Luke 23:50-56 - The Burial of Jesus

⁵⁰Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, ⁵¹had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. ⁵⁴It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.



On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Reflection

Picture yourself as Joseph of Arimathea. You are a member of the Jewish Council and had disagreed with the actions they had taken. This is often us, although we speak up and disagree, our voices are ignored and other actions are taken.