

# WHY ARE WE HERE?



2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021

To stand against the darkness

Mark 15: 33 - 41



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# REFLECTIVE ACTION

Get some silver coins, 30 if possible, and hold them in your hand. Don't let go. Also get a small bowl.

# CALL TO WORSHIP

‘He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed’ (1 Peter 2:24).



# JESUS CHRIST, I THINK UPON YOUR SACRIFICE



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# OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION

Loving God, as we gather united in spirit but divided in distance on this holy day, may we grasp the full extent of your love witnessed in the crucifixion of your Son.

May we remember and give thanks for your amazing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



**Lord, you are steadfast in your love and infinite in your mercy; you welcome sinners like us and invite us to draw close to you. We confess our sins to you, trusting in your mercy and forgiveness.**

*Take your silver coins and drop them in the bowl as an act of confession, of letting go of the sins that took Jesus to the cross.*



‘Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy’ (1 Peter 2:10).



The Father forgives you and sets you free,  
for you have been washed and made clean  
by Christ's death. Now live in the power of  
his Spirit to his praise and glory. **Amen.**

# MARK 15: 33 - 41

33 At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34 And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' (which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?').



35 When some of those standing near heard this, they said, 'Listen, he's calling Elijah.'

36 Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 'Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down,' he said.

37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.



38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, 'Surely this man was the Son of God!'

40 Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary



Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. 41 In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

# THIS BLOOD



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A person stands in the center of a vast, flat landscape, possibly a salt flat, at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue, green, and yellow, and the mountains in the background are reflected in the water. The person's reflection is clearly visible in the water.

**REFLECTION:**

**WHY ARE WE HERE?**

**TO STAND AGAINST THE DARKNESS**



# OH, TO SEE THE DAWN



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# PRAYERS (RAY SIMPSON)

Jesus forsaken, we pray to you for the forsaken ones of the world – orphaned children, lovers spurned, AIDS victims deserted.

Jesus broken, we bring to you those suffering from broken dreams, broken relationships, broken promises.



Jesus, defenceless victim, we bring to you  
those who are victims of violence, abuse  
and false accusation.


Jesus, who has lost everything, we bring to  
you those who have lost work, health or  
hope.



Jesus, thirsty and destitute, we bring to you  
those who are hungry, homeless and  
friendless.

Jesus, who looks upon his scattered  
disciples, grant your universal Church the  
grace to stay with you and walk in the way  
of the cross.

Jesus who, lifted up on the cross, draws all people to yourself, look upon the peoples of the world torn apart through greed and hatred – and become the source of a reconciling.

A large, dark wooden cross stands on the left side of the frame, set against a vibrant sky filled with soft, white and pinkish clouds. The text is centered in the upper right portion of the image.

# WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS



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# CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Loving God, with the suffering completed on the cross, and with the darkness defeated, may we be willing servants of the Saviour, bringing the hope and light of Christ to all; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**



And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,  
the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and  
all whom the Lord loves this day and for  
evermore. **Amen.**



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



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