

The Darkest Moment

Good Friday

Read: John ch.18-19

17Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). 18There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. 19Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: jesus of nazareth, the king of the jews. 20Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. 21The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."22Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." 23When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. 24"Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, "They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment."So this is what the soldiers did. 25Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "**Woman, here is your son,**"27and to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**"From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.28Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "**I am thirsty.**"29A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. 30When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "**It is finished.**"With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:17-30)

We have come to the end of our Lent wilderness journey. We want to encourage you here to continue on your path with Jesus through Holy Week. On the Good Friday, "The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe 3and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face." (John 19:2-3) The beloved and precious Son of God, came into the world to bear all the physical pains and mental sufferings to you and me. In the midst of all the difficulties we face in general and the unexpected challenges came with the pandemic, you may think our Lord would never understand what you are experiencing. His death which happens 2000 years ago has nothing to do with our sufferings now. No, on the contrary, Jesus held all of us in his heart, thinking of each of the people of God, while he was nailed and hanged on the cross. Let us pause for a while in our busy life, turn our minds away from our worries and anxieties. Let us behold the Lamb of God!

Now, you may find time this week to review your Lent journey. Here are a few questions to help you process this series.

Reflect: What has struck you most about the biblical image of the wilderness? Has this given you any new insights into God, life and faith?

Have you tried any new wilderness worship practices during Lent, such as fasting, simplicity, solitude or silence? Reflect on how you experienced these, and if you can see any fruit from them.

How will you live differently in the light of what God has revealed to you during this series?
