

## Day 45– Good Friday

### Scripture for Prayer

**Stilling:** Take a few minutes to become still.

**God is Present:** God is with you. Ask God to inspire your imagination.

**Ask for what you desire.** What gift, what grace do you want right now?

**Read** the passage through.

**Identify with a character:** Choose one of the people in the story and imagine the scene from their point of view.

**Set the Scene:** Fill in the details to make the story real for you. Imagine the scenery, the weather, the people. Be aware of how you feel.

### Luke 23:26-46 (NRSVA)

As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah?

Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Jesus replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

**Conversation:** When you come towards the end of your time of prayer, talk to Jesus, or Martha about what has come up for you. Imagine how they might reply.

**Prayer:** End with a formal prayer, such as the Lord's Prayer/Our Father

### Review of Prayer

Notice how you reacted and felt.

Is this saying anything about you, about the way you see others or God?

Did anything surprise you?

Is there anything you need to pray about in future?

### Today's Meditation

#### Aware

Mary stands at the cross,  
compassionate woman, waiting  
for the death of Jesus.

She is simply there,  
waiting, waiting for the death  
grieving,  
present,  
- aware.

We compassionate women  
cannot resurrect or heal,  
cannot even console.

The dying Christ  
is beyond consolation or healing,

He is simply dying.  
The compassionate woman  
know that, and waits.

She has embraced the death.

We embrace the death.

*Edwina Gateley*