



Vyacheslav Okun SJ Good Friday 2020

OPENING HYMN: WHERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED OUR LORD?

FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 15: 42-47

When it was already evening, because it was preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Sanhedrin, who was himself looking forward to the Kingdom of God, came and boldly went in to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised that He was already dead. Summoning the centurion he asked him whether He had already died. When he found out from the centurion, he gave the corpse to Joseph. After he bought some fine linen, he took Him down and wrapped Him in the linen. Then he placed Him in a tomb cut out of the rock and rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Now Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were watching where He was laid.

We will now pause for 5 minutes prayer in silence as we ponder this gospel

“We thought we had taken every precaution, followed all the rules, but to no avail. We rushed him to hospital but they couldn’t help. He waved to us as we left him. We could not stay. And then the phone call. He’d died. Suddenly all seems dark, empty, barren, hopeless. Why? What’s the use? “Where were you, Lord?” I cry bitterly. And from the depths of my heart there is a small inner voice: “I know how you feel. You are not on your own. I am with you. Let my compassion enfold you. Lean on me.”

There is a numbness around death. Sometimes we try to keep ourselves busy by doing familiar or necessary things. Joseph of Arimathea does what he can to give Jesus a decent burial after his indecent execution. The ever-faithful women followers of Jesus keep a watchful eye on his body.

Everything had been at such a rush at the end that there was no time to do the necessary anointing of the body before the Sabbath fell. The women wait for that long Sabbath to end so they can do what they can for Jesus.

- How has the COVID 19 pandemic impacted on you, your family, your friends and the community?
- What has helped you through this difficult time?

PAUSE WITH MUSIC FOR SILENT REFLECTION

As we keep watch beside the now empty cross, but wait in hope, let us pray:

- ✚ For all who have died from Covid 19 this past year.
- ✚ For those who are in mourning, especially those who were unable to be with the person they loved in their dying moments.
- ✚ For doctors and nurses and hospital staff who, at risk to themselves, continue to care for corona virus patients.
- ✚ For those who are gravely ill now because of corona virus.
- ✚ For hospital and hospice chaplains and all who minister to the sick and dying.
- ✚ For those who have lived this past year in lonely isolation.
- ✚ For those who are struggling with mental health problems brought on by the pandemic.
- ✚ For those who have lost their employment and have no financial security.
- ✚ For those who have no one to remember them.
- ✚ For our suffering world.

FINAL BLESSING

Through the wounds of Jesus, may we find healing;
Through his pain, may we find relief;
Through his suffering, may we find freedom;
Through his cross, may we find victory.

May the blessing of our loving, faithful God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

FINAL HYMN: THE SERVANT KING