

WALK TO CROSS GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2022

First station Reading: John Chapter 18 v 1-8

Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kedron valley. There was a garden there, and he went into it with his disciples. Judas the traitor knew the place well, since Jesus had often met his disciples there, -and he brought the cohort to this place together with a detachment of guards sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees, all with lanterns and torches and weapons. Knowing everything that was going to happen to him, Jesus then came forward and said, 'Who are you looking for?

They answered, Jesus the Nazarene'. He said, 'I am he'. Now Judas the traitor was standing among them. When Jesus said, 'I am he', they moved back and fell to the ground.

He asked them a second time, 'Who are you looking for? They said, 'Jesus the Nazarene'. 'I have told you that I am he' replied Jesus. 'If I am the one you are looking for, let these others go.' This was to fulfil the words he had spoken, 'Not one of those you gave me have I lost'

Response together : 'We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.'

2nd Station Reading: John 18 v 19-34

The high priest, questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly for all the world to hear; I have always taught in the synagogue and in the Temple where all the Jews meet together: I have said nothing in secret. But why ask me? Ask my hearers what I taught: they know what I said.'

At these words, one of the guards standing by gave Jesus a slap in the face, saying, 'Is that the way to answer the high priest? Jesus replied, 'If there is something wrong in what I said, point it out; but if there is no offence in it, why do you strike me? Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.

As Simon Peter stood there warming himself, someone said to him, 'Aren't you another of his disciples? He denied it saying, 'I am not'. One of the high priest's servants, a relation of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, 'Didn't I see you in the garden with him? Again Peter denied it; and at once a cock crew.

They then led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium. "It was now morning. They did not go into the Praetorium themselves or they would be defiled and unable to eat the passover. So Pilate came outside to them and said, 'What charge do you bring against this man? They replied, 'If he were not a criminal, we should not be handing him over to you'. Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves, and try him by your own Law'. The Jews answered, 'We are not allowed to put a man to death'. This was to fulfil the words Jesus had spoken indicating the way he was going to die. So Pilate went back into the Praetorium and called Jesus to him, 'Are you the king of the Jews? he asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?'

Response together : 'We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.'

Third station . Reading John 18 v 38—19 v 11

Pilate went out again to the Jews and said, 'I find no case against him. But according to a custom of yours I should release one prisoner at the Passover; would you like me, then, to release the king of the Jews?' At this they shouted 'Not this man, but Barabbas'. Barabbas was a brigand. Pilate then had Jesus taken away and scourged; and after this, the soldiers twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him and saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews'; and they slapped him in the face.

Pilate came outside again and said to them, 'Look, I am going to bring him out to you to let you see that I find no case'. Jesus then came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said, 'Here is the man'. When they saw him the chief priests and the guards shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!'

Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him: I can find no case against him'. 'We have a Law,' the Jews replied 'and according to that Law he ought to die, because he has claimed to be the Son of God.' When Pilate heard them say this his fears increased. Re-entering the Praetorium, he said to Jesus, 'Where do you come from?' But Jesus made no answer. Pilate then said to him, 'Are you refusing to speak to me? Surely you know I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?' Jesus replied, 'You would have no power over me if it had not been given you from above; that is why the one who handed me over to you has the greater guilt.'

Response together : 'We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.'

4th station Reading: John 19 v 16-24

So in the end Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. They took charge of Jesus, and carrying his own cross he went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified him with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote out a notice and had it fixed to the cross; it ran: 'Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews'. This notice was read by many of the Jews, because the place where Jesus was crucified was not far from the city, and the writing was in Hebrew, Latin and Greek.

So the Jewish chief priests said to Pilate, 'You should not write "King of the Jews", but "This man said: I am King of the Jews"'. Pilate answered, 'What I have written, I have written'.

When the soldiers had finished crucifying Jesus they took his clothing and divided it into four shares, one for each soldier. His undergarment was seamless, woven in one piece from neck to hem; so they said to one another, 'Instead of tearing it, let's throw dice to decide who is to have it'. In this way the words of scripture were fulfilled: They shared out my clothing among them. They cast lots for my clothes. This is exactly what the soldiers did.

Response together : 'We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.'

Silent reflection

Fifth station Reading: John 19 v 30-42

After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, 'It is accomplished' and bowing his head he gave up his spirit. It was Preparation Day, and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the sabbath—since that sabbath was a day of special solemnity—the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then of the other. When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water. This is the evidence of one who saw—trustworthy evidence, and he knows he speaks the truth—and he gives it so that you may believe as well. Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture: Not one bone of his will be broken; and again, in another place scripture says: They will look on the one whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, who was a disciple of Jesus—though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews—asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away. Nicodemus came as well—the same one who had first come to Jesus at night-time—and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, following the Jewish burial custom. At the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in this garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been buried. Since it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and the tomb was near at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Response together : 'We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.'