

# Passiontide Promise

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Daily Morning Prayer During the Last Two  
Weeks of Lent

Week 2: Holy Week



St Mary's LINTON

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Rooted in God. Rooted in Community

*On Monday - reflection by Lindi*

*O, dearly, dearly has he loved, and we must love him too,  
And trust in his redeeming blood, and try his works to do (C F Alexander)*

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
Let your ways be known upon earth,  
**your saving power among the nations.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief  
your only Son was lifted up  
that he might draw the whole world to himself.  
May we walk this day in the way of the cross  
and always be ready to share its weight,  
declaring your love for all the world.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom;  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom;**

(Taizé community)

*Monday Psalm 43 and a reading from Mark*

1 Give judgement for me, O God,  
and defend my cause against an ungodly people; ♦  
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.

2 For you are the God of my refuge;  
why have you cast me from you, ♦  
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?

3 O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, ♦  
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling,

4 That I may go to the altar of God,  
to the God of my joy and gladness; ♦  
and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God.

5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, ♦  
and why are you so disquieted within me?

6 O put your trust in God; ♦  
for I will yet give him thanks,  
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly.

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

*Mark 8.31-35*

Reflection





## Reflection on Christ's second fall. Virtual passion tide 6th April 2020



These days of lock-down have allowed Russell and I to catch up on all of those films we meant to watch but haven't.

Last night we watched *Touching the Void: The True Story of One Man's Miraculous Survival*:

Simon Yates and his climbing partner, Joe Simpson, had just reached the top of a 21,000-foot peak in the Andes when disaster struck. Simpson plunged off the vertical face of an ice ledge, breaking his leg. In the hours that followed, darkness fell and a blizzard raged as Yates tried to lower his friend to safety. Finally, Yates was forced to cut the rope, moments before he would have been pulled to his own death.

The next three days were an impossibly gruelling ordeal for both men. Yates, certain that Simpson was dead, returned to base camp consumed with grief and

guilt over abandoning him. Miraculously, Simpson had survived the fall, but crippled, starving, and severely frostbitten was trapped in a deep crevasse. Summoning vast reserves *of physical and spiritual strength*, Simpson crawled over the cliffs and canyons of the Andes, reaching base camp hours before Yates had planned to leave.

As we watched this it struck me that the effort Joe used to drag himself to safety was a metaphor for the effort that Christ used to drag himself up after falling for the second time, and these words came to me 'I am a worm, and no man; scorned by men, and despised by the people' (Ps 22, 6).

Here in the dust of the earth lies the condemned one. Crushed by the weight of his cross. His strength drains away from him more and more. But with great effort he gets up again to continue his stumbling exhausting walk.

To us sinners, what does this second fall say? More than the first one, it seems to urge us to get up, *to get up again* on our way of the cross.

Cyprian Norwid wrote: 'Not behind us with the Saviour's Cross, but behind the Saviour with our own Cross.' A brief saying, but one that conveys much truth. It explains how Christianity is the religion of the cross.

It tells us that every person meets Christ who carries the cross and falls under its weight.

In his turn, Christ, on the way to Calvary, meets every man and woman and, falling under the weight of the cross, does not cease to proclaim the good news. For 2000 years the gospel of the cross has spoken to man.

For twenty centuries Christ, getting up again from his fall, meets those who fall. Throughout these two millennia many people have learned that falling does not mean the end of the road.

In meeting the saviour they have heard his reassuring words:

'My grace is sufficient for you; for my power is made perfect in weakness' (2 Cor 12, 9). Comforted, they have got up again and brought to the world the word of *hope which comes from the Cross*.

And as we contend with Coronavirus we read in Romans:

'For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God....'And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.'

The truth in this verse is humbling, God can and will work out all things for a higher good. No matter what sickness, shortness of life, poverty, persecution, and difficulty in life, we can fully trust God to bring about a greater good. In other words, in his wise providence, the trials are designed to further his good purpose. Trials are to be expected. Suffering is part of this life. We are to keep our faith and even strengthen our trust in him during times of trials for God will create a greater good out of it.

### **Prayer**

*Lord Jesus Christ, you fall under the weight of human sin and you get up again in order to take it upon yourself and cancel it. Give to us, weak men and women, the strength to carry the cross of daily life and to get up again from our falls, so that we may bring to future generations the gospel of your saving power. To you, O Jesus, our support when we are weak, be praise and glory forever.*

**Amen**

Monday Week Two: VII Jesus falls the second time

*Through all our veils and shrouds of daily pain,  
Through our bruised bruises and re-opened scars,  
He falls and stumbles with us, hurt again  
When we are hurt again. With us he bears  
The cruel repetitions of our cruelty;  
The beatings of already beaten men,  
The second rounds of torture, the futility  
Of all unheeded pleading, every scream in vain.  
And by this fall he finds the fallen souls  
Who passed a first, but failed a second trial,  
The souls who thought their faith would hold them whole  
And found it only held them for a while.  
Be with us when the road is twice as long  
As we can bear. By weakness make us strong.*







Malcolm Guite

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;  
**by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**  
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.  
**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.**

We preach Christ crucified,  
the power of God and the wisdom of God.  
**By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**  
God forbid that I should glory,  
save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;**  
**by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

cf 1 Corinthians 1 and Galatians 6

**The word of the cross is folly  
to those who are perishing,  
but to those who are being saved  
it is the power of God.**

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,   
who has come to his people and set them free.  
2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,   
born of the house of his servant David.  
3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old   
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,  
4 To show mercy to our ancestors,   
and to remember his holy covenant.  
5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:   
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
6 Free to worship him without fear,   
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.  
9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**The word of the cross is folly  
to those who are perishing,  
but to those who are being saved  
it is the power of God.**



With faith and love and in union with Christ,  
let us offer our prayer before the throne of grace.

Have mercy on your people,  
for whom your Son laid down his life:

**God of love, hear our prayer**

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,  
and have pity on those torn apart by division:

**God of love, hear our prayer**

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake,  
and deliver them from evil:

**God of love, hear our prayer**

Look in mercy upon all who suffer,  
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:  
**God of love, hear our prayer**

Bring comfort to the dying,  
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:  
**God of love, hear our prayer**

Give rest to the departed  
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting:  
**God of love, hear our prayer**

Let us commend the world, for which Christ died,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Collect – Holy Week:*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Standing at the foot of the cross,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### *The Conclusion*

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross,  
set us free to serve him with joy.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Acknowledgements:

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