

# 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 Wednesday - 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)

*Wednesday Psalm 143 and a reading from 1 Corinthians*

1 Hear my prayer, O Lord,  
and in your faithfulness give ear to my supplications; ♦  
answer me in your righteousness.

2 Enter not into judgement with your servant, ♦  
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

3 For the enemy has pursued me,  
crushing my life to the ground, ♦  
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.

4 My spirit faints within me; ♦  
my heart within me is desolate.

5 I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; ♦  
I consider the works of your hands.

6 I stretch out my hands to you; ♦  
my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.

7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; ♦  
hide not your face from me  
lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.

8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,  
for in you I put my trust; ♦  
show me the way I should walk in,  
for I lift up my soul to you.

9 Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, ♦  
for I flee to you for refuge.

10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; ♦  
let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.

11 Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake; ♦  
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

12 In your faithfulness, slay my enemies,  
and destroy all the adversaries of my soul, ♦  
for truly I am your servant.

**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 message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

*1 Corinthians 1.18,22-25*



Reflection



## Reflection on Christ's third fall. Virtual Passiontide 8th April 2020



*'You must go on, that's all I know....You must go on....I can't go on....  
.....I'll go on.'*

This quote from Samuel Beckett leads me reflect on what might have been going on in Jesus' mind as he struggles under the weight of the cross. A silent conversation with his father, whilst delirious with pain and anguish and the fear of what he knows is coming at the end of this long stumbling broken walk.

As he nears his place of execution, a third and final fall begs the question: Why would Jesus get up? Why would he summon his last ounce of energy to deliver himself to the pain of the cross? Falling three times; getting up three times. Dying on the cross; rising from

the grave. Christ shows us that he can transform weakness, failings, and death into the glory of self-gift.

In Matthew we read...*'and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.'*

As Jesus makes the final sacrifice for us all we might ask the question 'What does Jesus mean by 'take up your cross'?', and, 'What is my cross?'. I've asked myself those two questions and the phrase I reflect on is the last four words of that verse, *'is not worthy of me'*.

In the first sense, the cross is a sign of suffering. It's where Jesus suffered and died and it's where many were crucified by the Romans before and after him. Our 'cross' is that which causes us to suffer.

We all suffer in some way. It may come in the form of real physical or emotional pain. Perhaps our suffering is a physical handicap, the loss of a loved one, the experience of an injustice, or the loss of a job and the inability to make ends meet.

By 'taking up our cross' Jesus is telling us that, no matter what our suffering is, he is there to support us, it is not something he has not himself gone through and what he has endured is nothing compared to our suffering. In this life there will always be a certain amount of suffering. Not until we find ourselves in heaven will we live a peaceful and painless eternity.

Taking up our cross, means to accept that which causes us to suffer. It means we need to take ownership and, in doing so, we need to accept our suffering without complaint, a difficult thing to work towards.

In this regard, I think about the verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:18, '*In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Jesus Christ.*'

Taking up our cross is hard and it is a lifelong service and difficult to do without complaint, and whilst we can ask for help and prayers from our fellow Christians we must not burden others. On the other hand, there is one person whom we can ask to bear our suffering with us - Jesus. He tells us throughout the Gospels that he is there for us, that we can trust in and turn our troubles over to him. He will make our burdens light.

Taking up our cross means acceptance and following Jesus. When we have given our suffering to Jesus and let go the causes of our suffering to him, we can start to live again.

Jesus died and, upon his resurrection, went to a better place. By taking up our cross and following him, we, too, can find a kind of resurrection, a better place. We can begin to open ourselves up to finding joy in the every day gifts which God provides. In opening up, we begin to accept his love for us, a love that is independent of our circumstances. Then, ultimately, our resurrection is complete when we begin to love others unselfishly in spite of our personal suffering. In fact, we no longer view it as suffering but, instead, as a unique gift.

## **Prayer**

Jesus, your journey has been long. You fall again, beneath your cross. You know your journey is coming to an end. You struggle and struggle. You get up and keep going.

I often feel I should have conquered my weaknesses by now. I become discouraged when I'm confronted by the same problems over and over again. Sometimes I get weary. When I have problems, I can become discouraged and depressed.

Help me think of the cross you carried. Help me continue to hope that I can make the changes in my life I need to. You didn't give up, give me the strength to get up again too.

**Amen**

**Lindi Kent**



Wednesday Week Two: IX Jesus falls the third time

*He weeps with you and with you he will stay  
When all your staying power has run out  
You can't go on, you go on anyway.  
He stumbles just beside you when the doubt  
That always haunts you, cuts you down at last  
And takes away the hope that drove you on.  
This is the third fall and it hurts the worst,  
This long descent through darkness to depression  
From which there seems no rising and no will  
To rise, or breathe or bear your own heart beat.  
Twice you survived; this third will surely kill,  
And you could almost wish for that defeat  
Except that in the cold hell where you freeze  
You find your God beside you on his knees.*

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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