

# HOLY WEEK

## A JOURNEY INTO THE HEART



# SACRIFICE

### A Heart of Prayer

**Leader:**

We begin this time of prayer: in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:**

Loving God, we enter a time of great importance in our Liturgical Season. As we journey towards Easter, let us take the time to journey with Jesus to the cross. You gave us your Son, so that we may have eternal life. Teach us to sit at the foot of the cross and remember the importance of Jesus' sacrifice.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reader:**

Mary stood by at the foot of the cross of Jesus. She stayed with her son in his time of need. Let us now take the time to sit with Jesus .

Let us close our eyes and imagine being at the foot of the cross of Jesus. Use all your senses to experience being at the cross with Jesus. What do you see, smell, feel, and hear?

(Pause for 2 minutes)

Jesus gave of himself for us on the cross. Why?

Jesus gave his life, so that we might have life. As we continue to sit at the foot of the cross, let us listen to the words of the Prophet Isaiah

(52:13-53:12):

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reader:**

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him - so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals - so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the

iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**Leader:**

Amazing Lord, you truly gave us so much by dying for us on the cross. Teach us to endure in faith and let our hearts always be united with you.

## A Heart of Discussion



### One Solitary Life

#### **Reader:**

“Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.”

~ James Allen Francis

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why is Jesus' life still important for us today? What does Jesus life mean to you?
2. What do you think the author was trying to say in *One Solitary Life*?
3. Jesus' death holds great importance in our faith. Discuss the importance of Jesus' sacrifice and why we solemnly remember this every year.

## A Heart of Action

To change our hearts, we need to change our actions. This week try the following task:

What is a materialistic thing you value the most? For the entire week try to be without it.

