

# Holy Friday

**Readings:** Mark: 14:27-15:41; Luke 23:34; John 9:26-27

## **Meditation:**

The betrayal by one of his own disciples. The denial by Peter. The unspeakable torture and humiliation at the hands of Roman soldiers. The crown of thorns on his head. The Roman soldiers spitting on him. The long, slow walk carrying the heavy cross to his own execution. The unbearable pain of being nailed to the cross through the flesh of his hands and feet. Feeling forsaken by all around him, even by God. All alone, high upon the cross, surrounded by thieves, hanging in agony for hours, in pain and exhaustion until he could bear it no longer.

The courage. The courage he showed the night before at the Garden of Gethsemane, when he accepted God's will, even though it was not his own. The courage he showed when he was betrayed and arrested. The courage at his trials before the Jewish leaders and before Pilate, quietly accepting the inevitable. The courage he showed during the taunting and mocking and then to face a death that he did not deserve.

The love. The love he had for his mother, even at the end, to see that someone would take care of her. The love he had for those who tormented him, forgiving them. The love he had for us, in choosing to be like us. In choosing to be born like us, to be among us. In choosing to teach us, to heal us. To suffer himself for our sins. To die for us so that we ourselves would not be punished. To suffer and die for our mistakes, to bring us back to God. The perfect love of God, our Father, shown to us through Jesus, our brother.

## **Prayer**

*Jesus through your death for us, you showed us perfect love.*

*What can we say, what can we do, in response to your sacrifice for us?*

*You have loved us so much and we love you back.*

*We want to be like you.*

*Help us to live a life of love and to spread to others your message of love, as you did for me.*

## **For Reflection:**

Have I accepted Christ's sacrifice for my sins?

---

---

---

How have I experienced Christ's love in my life?

---

---

---

How have I shared that love with others?

---

---

---

## **Did you know . . .**

*Observance of the events of Holy Friday actually begins on Thursday evening with the moving Khavaroom service. Candles are gradually extinguished as six selections are read from the gospel passion narratives. The service concludes with the church in almost total darkness.*