

An optional Act of Devotion at the Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

As we stand in the shadow of the Cross, we re-dedicate ourselves to the Service of Jesus and His protection. I invite each one of us to reach out to the Cross, knowing that as we do so, Jesus reaches out to us.

You may like to say the following prayer in silence or under your breath: **"Thank you Jesus for dying for me"**

There is a green hill far away,
without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear;
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiv'n,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heav'n,
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heav'n, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

A blessing

Good Friday walk with the Cross



THE FIRST WORD

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

Gospel of Luke 23:34

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my
sorry which was brought upon me. O my
people, what have I done to you, or in
what have I offended you? Testify against
me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt,
and delivered you by the waters of
baptism, but you have prepared a cross
for your Saviour.

**All: Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

THE SECOND WORD

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Gospel of Luke 23:43

I led you through the desert forty years,
and fed you with manna. I brought you
through tribulation and penitence, and
gave you my body, the bread of heaven,
but you prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**All: Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

THE THIRD WORD

***Jesus said to his mother:
"Woman, this is your son." Then
he said to the disciple: "This is
your mother."***

Gospel of John 19:26 and 27

I gave you a royal sceptre, and bestowed on you the keys of the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you prepared a cross for your Saviour.

All: Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

THE FOURTH WORD

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The Gospel of Matthew 27:46

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counsellor. I pray that all may be one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing and prepared a cross for your Saviour.

All: Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

THE FIFTH WORD

"I am thirsty."

Gospel of John 19:28

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked and beaten me. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me gall and left me to thirst. I made you the branched of my vine; but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink, and pierced with a spear the side of your Saviour.

All: Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

THE SIXTH WORD

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished;" and he bowed his head and handed over his spirit.

Gospel of John 19:30

I gave you my peace, a peace which the world cannot give. I washed your feet as a sign of my love. But you draw the sword to strike in my name, and look for places of power and status in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, but you prepared a cross for your Saviour.

All: Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

THE SEVENTH WORD

Jesus cried out in a loud voice: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Gospel of Luke 23:46

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters. I was hungry and you gave me no food. I was thirsty and you gave me no drink. I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

All: Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

At the cross there will follow an additional act of recommitment and dedication.