

Order for Personal or Family Worship

**Tuesday, Holy Week 2020**

Thought for the Day: Jesus is heading toward Jerusalem, an incredibly risky thing for him to do. In the eyes of his disciples it must have seemed the height of foolishness. Was Jesus tempted with every step to turn back? Was he ever tempted to believe like the servant described by Isaiah, that he had labored in vain, that he had spent himself for nothing? His humanity surely points to him experiencing deep feelings of agony and anguish, but his confidence in the faithfulness and empowerment of God exceeded his human limitations. Like the psalmist, it is through his hope and trust in God that he finds strength for his needs.

SILENT MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 71

INVOCATION

**Dear God, you are the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Journey with us this day from dreams of grandeur to the darkness of deceit. Perk our minds and souls to the possibilities of your kingdom both within us and without. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 49:1-7

EPISTLE LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE GOSPEL LESSON John 12:20-33 (printed below)

MEDITATION OF THE DAY (below)

HYMN "In The Cross of Christ I Glory" #140 (words are below)

BENEDICTION

**Thank you, God, for sending your Son, and paving the way for our lives to be set free by Jesus's death on the cross. On this day he makes the announcement that he will die for us; so on this day, might we commit to live for Him. Amen.**

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John 12:20-33 New International Version (NIV)

20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a

request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

30 Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. 31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up<sup>[a]</sup> from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

#### MEDITATION

**Life is about choices!** We all have choices to make: where we live, who we share our lives with, what we eat, how we spend our time, which political party we vote for. The crowds in Jerusalem had made a choice — to vote Jesus as their new King. After all, some people had seen Him perform great miracles, even raised someone from the dead. Surely He above anyone else should be their leader! The people were optimistic that — maybe this time — they had found someone who would make a difference and free them from the oppression of the Romans.

But with the arrival of some Greeks (or Gentiles in other translations), Jesus made a staggering announcement: that in a matter of hours, He would be dead. It must have gone down like a lead balloon.

What?! But the Scriptures say the Messiah remains forever. What do you mean by saying "the Son of Man will be lifted up"? But Jesus tells them that His death isn't the end of His reign, but the beginning. **His Kingdom doesn't start with a coronation, but a crucifixion!**

Just as a grain of wheat is planted in the ground and dies in order for new growth and a new crop to be produced. So Jesus's death will be the source of a new spiritual life and growth in the world — a new beginning for mankind. It will draw people from all

over the world to Him, like iron to a magnet, and produce a rich harvest for God's Kingdom.

But, entry into the Kingdom isn't automatic. If we want to enter God's Kingdom we must put that desire above everything else, before any short-term gains we may receive in this life. We must die to our own self-righteousness and give ourselves completely to Him.

It will be costly; we will be tempted to take an easier path. Even Jesus was tempted. John gives us a picture of Jesus in torment as He makes His final decision of obedience unto death.

We are all afraid to go forward for Christ. It is a tremendous responsibility. **But Jesus shows us that the way to overcome our fears is by faith in Him.** Jesus promises that if we trust Him and serve Him, He will help us walk the true path towards the Kingdom.

John doesn't say whether the Gentiles took any notice of Jesus, but the Jews certainly got the message and openly ridiculed Him.

Jesus warns them that time is short, and appealed to them to respond while the light is still with them and before the cross comes and He is taken away.

Jesus challenged them: That if they wanted to see God's Kingdom, they have to accept God's love on a cross. We too are challenged to choose the way of the cross, to be one of the fruits of Jesus's death and glorious resurrection.

**Without Jesus we are lost in darkness, but with Jesus we have a clear view of the truth.**

**Without Jesus we are dead; with Jesus we have eternal life.**

We either follow the crowd and live for the promises of this world, or follow Jesus — take up the cross that God has given us, and live for the promises of today and the world to come.

What do you choose? Amen and Amen!

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Hymn: In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1. In the cross of Christ I glory,  
towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story  
gathers 'round its head sublime.

2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me.  
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming  
light and love upon my way,  
from the cross the radiance streaming  
adds more luster to the day.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure,  
joys that through all time abide.
5. In the cross of Christ I glory,  
towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.