

With Him All Along: The Women on the Journey

Good Friday Service

Greeting and Introduction by the Presider

Song: "Were You There?" (Lead Me, Guide Me (LMGM # 43 or Glory and Praise # 260)

Presider: Let us begin. In the name of God, our Creator and Light, in the name of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, in the name of the Spirit who dwells among us and within us. *(Participants slowly and deliberately make the sign of the cross.)*

Presider: We come together today to remember and to learn from Jesus' journey and the women who were with him all along. As we remember them, let us pray:

All: Faithful God, give us the courage to take up the cross and so to walk with Christ from death to life. As we recall his sacred passion, death and resurrection, stir up within us the Holy Spirit and guide our feet into the way of peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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The Woman Who Anoints Jesus' Feet

Gospel: Matthew 26:6-13

Reflection (a brief reflection on the reading is given by someone other than the reader)

Presider: Let us join in prayer with the anointing woman.

All: Forgive your church, O God, for forgetting the name of the woman at Bethany who anointed Christ's head and prepared him for his passion, death and burial.

Give us the wisdom never to overlook the gifts that women everywhere bring to the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Song: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" (LMGM # 221) or "There is a Balm in Gilead" (#479 Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) Today's Missal Music 2001)

The Women on the Way

Gospel: Luke 23:26-32

Reflection (a brief reflection on the reading is given by someone other than the reader)

Presider: Let us join in prayer with the women on the way.

All: God of compassion, How often have you beaten your breast and wailed aloud for all you see! Open our hearts to the mystery of suffering, Of suffering with others when there is no other way. Give us the love of these women of Jerusalem. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Song: "I Can Hear My Saviour Calling" (LMGM #120) or "We Remember" vs1,3,4 (by Marty Haugen # 464 Today's Missal Music 2001 OCP or Glory and Praise # 255)

The Women at the Foot of the Cross

Gospel: Matthew 27:45-56

Question/Answer/Group Sharing: (Led by presider)

Suggested questions for reflection:

- Who in the world is most forsaken by our religious and political leaders?
- When have you felt powerless over suffering and death? How did you respond?

Presider: Let us join in prayer with the women at the foot of the cross.

All: God of our dying and our living, Set our hearts on life and love forever. Give us the strength to walk this way with you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Song: "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross" (LMGM #45) or "O Sacred Head Surrounded" (LMGM # 52 or Glory and Praise #177)

The Women Who Bury Jesus

Gospel: Luke 23:53-24:1

Reflection (a brief reflection on the reading is given by someone other than the reader)

Presider: Let us join in prayer with the women who bury Jesus.

All: God of the living, how long will we have to bury the broken bodies of all who die in war, from starvation, through neglect? The death of Jesus is enough! Change the water of our sadness into wine of compassion so that we may take down all the bodies nailed to crosses. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Song: “O Sacred Head Surrounded” (LMGM # 52 or Glory and Praise # 177) or “Holy Darkness” (by Dan Schutte # 667 Today’s Missal Music 2001 OCP and on tape “Lover of Us All”) or “Sing My Tongue the Saviors Glory” (Glory and Praise #220)

Mary of Magdala in the Garden

Gospel: John 20:1-18

Reflection (a brief reflection on the reading is given by someone other than the reader)

Presider: Let us join in prayer with Mary of Magdala.

All: “Mary of Magdala, you exhibited the qualities of spiritual discipleship for all to see and emulate. Teach me to be respectful that I might also be respected. Inspire me to be self-determined, and help me to hold a vision for inclusiveness and for healing the rifts between men and women in the world today.” Amen.

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General Intercessions

Presider: Jesus was ministered to by many different women during his life and on the way to his death. They were ordinary and extraordinary women like the women of today who daily reach out with compassion to others and to one another during times of sorrow. May these women of the bible inspire us to seek the Truth and Wisdom found in the teachings of Jesus.

Reader: Women were faithful disciples of Jesus. Help us, O God, to have the courage to stand up for Justice even if it means going against the status quo.

All: God of Justice, hear our prayer.

Reader: Like the women at the foot of the cross, may we be present to those who are suffering and reach out with compassion, aid, and comfort.

All: God of Compassion, hear our prayer.

Reader: Like the women on the way, in times of fear and great sorrow may we remember the teachings of Jesus that help us to discern how to overcome adversity, hate, racism, sexism, and self-righteousness.

All: God of our Journey, hear our prayer.

Reader: Mary of Magdala remained at Jesus' side through his suffering, death and anonymous burial. O God, who accompanies us when we suffer, give us strength to accompany our loved ones who are sick and dying.

All: God of life and death hear our prayer.

Our Father (All)

Blessing/Dismissal:

Presider: Mother of Sorrows; Mary of Magdala; Mary, the mother of James; Salome; Veronica, true and brave; Woman of Bethany, whose name we have lost; Wife of Pilate, whose name we were never told; Women of Jerusalem, mourning and weeping then rejoicing and reaping:

We have walked this way with you, now lend your voices to our prayer!

All: Pray for us that we, too may persevere in faith, be loud in our lament as well as in our lauds. Pray that we, too, find Christ suffering in every woman abused, in every girl denied a chance, in every man trapped in violence and in every boy whose soul is sold for lies.

Help us to confront and to comfort, to struggle and to survive to wait patiently outside the tomb when that's the right place to be.

May we never forget you. May we ever live like you.
May we join you in Christ's coming reign of justice! Amen!

Presider: May God bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen!

Presider: Let us bless the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

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Song: "In the Garden" (LMGM 248) or "We Walk By Faith" (by Marty Haugen #469 Today's Missal Music 2001 OCP) or "Now We Remain" (by David Haas #553 OCP Today's Missal Music 2001)