

Song Of Hope

“Our Song of Hope” expresses the RCA’s understanding of the way the gospel functions in our lives and in the world. Adopted as a contemporary statement of faith in 1978, “Our Song of Hope” is not one of the RCA’s Standards of Unity, the four confessions that articulate the church’s core convictions. It was written in the 1970s in order to freshly express the denomination’s beliefs in contemporary language. Though it’s not literally a song—there is no accompanying melody—churches may use the text in worship or in discipleship or educational contexts.



Thursday, February 15, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world’s true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in the Coming of the Lord
We are a people of hope
waiting for the return of our Lord.
God has come to us
through the ancient people of Israel,
as the true Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth,
as the Holy Spirit at work in our world.
Our Lord speaks to us now through the
inspired Scriptures.
Christ is with us day by day.

[Revelation 22:20-21](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. As you go through your day, imagine Christ with you each step of the way.

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Friday, February 16, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Song in a Hopeless World

We know Christ to be our only hope.
We have enmeshed our world in a realm of sin,
rebelled against God,
accepted inhuman oppression of humanity,
and even crucified God's son.
God's world has been trapped by our fall,
governments entangled by human pride,
and nature polluted by human greed.

[Hebrews 12:1](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. As you go through your day, where do you see the "realm of sin" or "rebellion against God?"

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Monday, February 19, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Jesus Christ our only Hope

Our only hope is Jesus Christ.
After we refused to live in the image of God,
He was born of the virgin Mary,
sharing our genes and our instincts,
entering our culture, speaking our language,
fulfilling the law of our God.
Being united to Christ's humanity,
we know ourselves when we rest in Him.

[1 Peter 1:3](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. What does it mean for you to "rest" in Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Jesus Christ is the hope of God's world.

In His death,
the justice of God is established;
forgiveness of sin is proclaimed.
On the day of the resurrection,
the tomb was empty; His disciples saw Him;
death was defeated; new life had come.
God's purpose for the world was sealed.

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. What new life have you experienced?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Jesus Christ our Hope

Our ascended Lord gives hope for two ages.
In the age to come, Christ is the judge,
rejecting unrighteousness,
isolating God's enemies to hell,
blessing the new creation in Christ.
In this age, the Holy Spirit is with us,
calling nations to follow God's path,
uniting people through Christ in love.

[John 14:26](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. How would you like to see the Holy Spirit call nations to follow God's path and unite people through Christ's love?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Thursday, February 22, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in God's Words

The Holy Spirit speaks through the Scriptures.
The Spirit has inspired Hebrew and Greek words,
setting God's truth in human language,
placing God's teaching in ancient cultures,
proclaiming the Gospel in the history of the world.
The Spirit speaks truly what the nations must know,
translating God's word into modern languages,
impressing it on human hearts and cultures.

[1 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. Do you have a favorite scripture? What is it and why?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Friday, February 23, 2024

Look back over the week and reflect:

What are some of the things that stuck out to you this week?

Are there themes?

What do they mean to you?

What are you learning so far?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Monday, February 26, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in God's Words

The Holy Spirit speaks through the Church,
measuring its words by the canonical
Scriptures.

The Spirit has spoken in the ancient creeds,
and in the confessions of the Reformation.

The world is called to bear witness to Christ
in faithfulness to the Scriptures,
in harmony with the church of the ages,
and in unity with all Christ's people.

[Matthew 18:19-20](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. So far, how do you enjoy reading the words of this confession? Does it "speak your language?" How and how not?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in God's Words

God's Spirit speaks in the world
according to God's ultimate word in Christ.

In every time and place,
in ancient cities and distant lands,
in technology and business,
in art and education,

God has not been left without a witness.

The Word has entered where we have failed to
go.

[Psalm 19:1](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. Where have you learned God's "Words" (meaning God's truth or wisdom) outside of the church?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in God's Words

In each year and in every place
we expect the coming of Christ's Spirit.
As we listen to the world's concerns,
hear the cry of the oppressed,
and learn of new discoveries,
God will give us knowledge,
teach us to respond with maturity,
and give us courage to act with integrity.

[Micah 6:8](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. What concerns and cries are you hearing in the world today? How might God be asking you to respond with maturity and courage?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in Daily Life

As citizens we acknowledge the Spirit's work in
human government
for the welfare of the people,
for justice among the poor,
for mercy towards the prisoner,
against inhuman oppression of humanity.
We must obey God above all rulers,
waiting upon the Spirit,
filled with the patience of Christ.

[Mark 12:17](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. Do you see God at work in the work of governments? If so, in what ways?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Friday, March 1, 2024

Look back over the week and reflect:

What are some of the things that stuck out to you this week?

Are there themes?

What do they mean to you?

What are you learning so far?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Monday, March 4, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in Daily Life

We pray for the fruits of the Spirit of Christ who works for peace on earth, commands us to love our enemies, and calls for patience among the nations. We give thanks for God's work among governments, seeking to resolve disputes by means other than war, placing human kindness above national pride, replacing the curse of war with international self-control.

[Matthew 5:43-48](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. Spend time today praying for our world to replace the curse of war with international self-control.

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in Daily Life

We hear the Spirit's call to love one another
opposing discrimination of race or sex,
inviting us to accept one another,
and to share at every level
in work and play,
in church and state,
in marriage and family,
and so fulfill the love of Christ.

[Galatians 3:28-29](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. Where do you see or experience discrimination?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in Daily Life

As male and female we look to the Spirit
Who makes us the stewards of life
to plan its beginning,
to love in its living,
and to care in its dying.
God makes us the stewards of marriage
with its lifelong commitment to love;
yet God knows our frailty of heart.

[1 John 4:7-8](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. How have you been a "steward" (caretaker or responsible party) of life?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in Daily Life

The Spirit leads us into Truth—
the Truth of Christ's salvation,
into increasing knowledge of all existence.
He rejoices in human awareness of God's
creation
and gives freedom to those on the frontiers of
research.
We are overwhelmed by the growth in our
knowledge.
While our truths come in broken fragments,
we expect the Spirit to unite these in Christ.

[Romans 8:28](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. What new things are you learning lately? How is your knowledge growing?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Friday, March 8, 2024

Look back over the week and reflect:

What are some of the things that stuck out to you this week?

Are there themes?

What do they mean to you?

What are you learning so far?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Monday, March 11, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in the Church

Christ elects the church
to proclaim the Word and celebrate the
sacraments,
to worship God's name,
and to live as true disciples.
He creates a community
to be a place of prayer,
to provide rest for the weary,
and to lead people to share in service.

[Hebrews 10:24-25](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. How does our church do the things listed above?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in the Church

The Holy Spirit sends the church
to call sinners to repentance,
to proclaim the good news
that Jesus is personal Savior and Lord.
The Spirit sends it out in ministry
to preach good news to the poor,
righteousness to the nations,
and peace among all people.

[Luke 4:18-19](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. Like yesterday, reflect on how our church does the things listed above?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in the Church

The Holy Spirit builds one church,
united in one Lord and one hope,
with one ministry around one table.
The Spirit calls all believers in Jesus
to respond in worship together,
to accept all the gifts from the Spirit,
to learn from each other's traditions,
to make unity visible on earth.

[John 13:35](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. What does it mean for you that our individual church is actually part of one church built by the Holy Spirit?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in the Church

Christ places baptism in the world
as a seal of God's covenant people,
placing them in ministry,
assuring them of the forgiveness of sins.
God knows those who are baptized in Jesus'
name,
guiding the church gently to lead us,
calling us back when we go astray,
promising life amid trials and death.

[Acts 2:38](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. Reflect on your baptism. What does baptism mean to you?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Friday, March 15, 2024

Look back over the week and reflect:

What are some of the things that stuck out to you this week?

Are there themes?

What do they mean to you?

What are you learning so far?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Monday, March 18, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in the Church

Christ places the Lord's table in this world.
Jesus takes up our bread and wine
to represent His sacrifice,
to bind His ministry to our daily work,
to unite us in His righteousness.
Here Christ is present in His world
proclaiming salvation until He comes,
a symbol of hope for a troubled age.

[1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. Reflect on your experience of sharing communion. What does communion mean to you? (Plan to attend the Maundy Thursday, 3/28, service where we will celebrate communion around tables.)

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in the Age to Come
God saves the world through Jesus.
Those who call on that name will have life.
Christ's hand reaches out beyond those who say "Lord"
to the infants who live in the atmosphere of faith,
even to the farthest stars and planets of all creation.
The boundaries of God's love are not known,
the Spirit works at the ends of the world
before the church has there spoken a word.

[Romans 8:38-39](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. Where in the world today would you like to pray for God's love to reach?

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Daily opening sentences:

We sing to our Lord a new song;
We sing in our world a sure Hope:
Our God loves this world,
God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ,
God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.

Read and Reflect

Our Hope in the Age to Come
God will renew the world through Jesus,
who will put all unrighteousness out,
purify the works of human hands,
and perfect their fellowship in divine love.
Christ will wipe away every tear;
death shall be no more.
There will be a new heaven and a new earth,
and all creation will be filled with God's glory.

[Revelation 21:4](#)

1. What sticks out to you?
2. Ask God to give you this astounding hope for a new heaven and a new earth, where all creation will be filled with God's glory.

Closing Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.

Thursday, March 21, 2024

From now until Good Friday, we will be reading Mark's account of Jesus' last week.

Read Mark 14:1-11

"It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people." While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her." Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him."

1. What sticks out to you?
2. What is your prayer today?

Friday, March 22, 2024

Read Mark 14:12-25

"On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'"

1. What sticks out to you?
2. What is your prayer today?

Monday, March 25, 2024

Read Mark 14:26-42

“When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter said to him, “Even though all become deserters, I will not.” Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” But he said vehemently, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same.”

“They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.””

1. What sticks out to you?
2. What is your prayer today?

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Read Mark 14:43-72

“Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.” All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.”

“They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’ ” But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they

testify against you?” But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” Jesus said, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’ ” Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.”

1. What sticks out to you?
2. What is your prayer today?

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Read Mark 15:1-15

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.” But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for

you the King of the Jews?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

1. What sticks out to you?
2. What is your prayer today?

Thursday, March 28, 2024

Read Mark 15:16-32

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters), and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on him. And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified

him and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two rebels, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

1. What sticks out to you?
2. What is your prayer today?

Friday, March 29, 2024

Read Mark 15:33-47

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion who stood

facing him saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

There were also women looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome, who followed him when he was in Galilee and ministered to him, and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead, and summoning the centurion he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth and, taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

1. What sticks out to you?
2. What is your prayer today?