

Holy Week Devotionals

By R. L. Tigh

Good Friday “The Crucifixion”

Matthew 27:11-56; Mark 15:1-39; Luke 23:1-49; John 19:1-37

“And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull)...they crucified him.”
Mark 15:22, 25

Jesus was betrayed by a friend, arrested by the authorities, denied by one of his closest disciples, tried and found guilty by Israel’s leaders, and a Roman had him beaten and executed - all in the space of a few hours. The one who rode into Jerusalem on Sunday to the shouts of “Hosanna, Hosanna” was now hanging naked on a Roman cross. While on that cross Jesus cried out “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani? which means, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”¹ Jesus, very God of very God, forsaken by God! “For our sake he (God the Father) made him (Jesus, God the Son) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”² “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree...”³ “...Christ died for our sins...”⁴ On the cross, Jesus bore the crushing weight of sin. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the Psalmist gave a first person account of Jesus’ crucifixion. “For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet – I can count all my bones – they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”⁵ “...it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin...”⁶ “But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed...and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”⁷ At the end of six hours on the cross Jesus cried out in a loud voice saying “TETELESTAI” meaning “It is finished’...and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”⁸ The word “tetelestai” was used by merchants to signify payment in full. When Jesus cried this, he was saying that full payment had been achieved, nothing was lacking! The sins of all those who would be saved were now paid in full.

Let us with joyful hearts thank our great redeemer and friend for all that he has done!

Hymn

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” by Bernard of Clairvaux, Trinity Hymnal page #247

The Baptist Catechism

Question: “How does Christ execute the office of a priest?”

Answer: “Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and to reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.”

Family Activity

Cross Cookies: Use a basic sugar cookie recipe or already prepared cookie dough to form and bake cookies in the shape of the cross. Cookies may be given as gifts with simple cards containing salvation verses.

¹ Mark 15:14; ²II Corinthians 5:21; ³1 Peter 2:24; ⁴I Corinthians 15:3; ⁵Psalm 22:16-18; ⁶Isaiah 53:10; ⁷Isaiah 53:5-6; ⁸John 19:30