

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ  
According to St. John  
the 19<sup>th</sup> Chapter

A Time of Prayerful Reflection

# John 19: 1-7

- <sup>1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" <sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." <sup>7</sup>The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

# Reflection

- Here stands GOD. THE Living, Loving God of all creation and His subjects simply ridicule Him by dressing him up as a mock King. Purple robe and all...
- See Jesus' pain with the crown of thorns shoved into his head? Hear the people yell, "Crucify! Crucify!"
- What have we done to our King?

# John 19:15-22

- Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." <sup>16</sup>Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup>and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." <sup>20</sup>Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. <sup>21</sup>Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

# Reflection

- Rome made criminals carry notices around their necks with the name of their crimes. The sign on the cross was the same idea. It is written in the three major languages of the time and place: Hebrew, Latin and Greek. How ironic that Pilate doesn't believe Jesus is King any more than the Jewish chief priests do.
- They simply cannot see Jesus as King. Yet His death ushers in God's Kingdom. Can you see it? Does it look like a broken, bloody body?
- Where have you seen God's Kingdom in brokenness or pain?

# John 19:25-30

- Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.  
<sup>28</sup>After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

# Reflection

- Mary, who once told her Son to change the water into wine, is now seeing Him die. Jesus' blood is now the wine she symbolically must drink as she takes in these moments. What must she be feeling?
- "I am thirsty." Jesus thirsty? "The water I give will gush up ...to eternal life." (Jn 3:14) Today it is God who is thirsty.
- "It is finished." All the signs and miracles are done...even this last one...God's glory revealed

# John 19:31-37

- <sup>31</sup>Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. <sup>32</sup>Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup>(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) <sup>36</sup>These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." <sup>37</sup>And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

# Reflection

- On Passover the lambs would all be killed in the temple with a restriction that no bones be broken. Jesus is being killed on Passover. He is the true Passover lamb.
- Soldiers broke leg bones to hasten death. Water and blood was a sign Jesus had already died. God was dead.
- God, incarnate in flesh, was dead upon the Tree of Life.

Can you name your thoughts or feelings?

# John 19:38-42

- <sup>38</sup>After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. <sup>40</sup>They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup>And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

# Reflection

- We met Nicodemus when he first came to Jesus at night asking all sorts of questions about water, spirit and rebirth. Now he's become a disciple; preparing his King's body for burial.
- We disciples gather on this Black Friday we call, "Good" to bury our King.
- May we prepare the tomb of our hearts to receive Jesus' body. Amen.

# The Gospel of our Lord

- Written by Pr Loughry using some reflections based on NT Wright's "John; For Everyone. Part 2 Chapters 11-21". Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky. 2004. Pgs. 116-139.