

Today:
March 22, 2015

Scripture Focus: Mark 15:20b-37

²⁴ Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross. They divided his clothes and threw dice to decide who would get each piece.

²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ A sign announced the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Ha! Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. ³⁰ Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!"

³¹ The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! ³² Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!" Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him.

³³ At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. ³⁴ Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

³⁵ Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. ³⁶ One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!"

³⁷ Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last.

(Mark 15:24-37, New Living Translation)

Notes from Worship:

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

Questions for Discussion:

- What is the significance that Jesus was publicly executed as a criminal?
- In what role in the story can you most easily imagine yourself? (soldier, thief/revolutionary, passerby, religious leader)?

This Week: **March 23-28**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 3/23	Tuesday 3/24	Wednesday 3/25	Thursday 3/26	Friday 3/27	Saturday 3/28
Isaiah 38-39; 2 Kings 20:1-21; 2 Chron. 32:24-33	Isaiah 40-42; Psalm 46	Isaiah 43-45; Psalm 80	Isaiah 46-49; Psalm 135	Isaiah 50-53	Isaiah 54-58

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

Why is it significant that Hezekiah showed all his treasure to the Babylonian Envoys (see Isaiah 39 and 2 Kings 20)?

Tuesday

When in your life do you need to hear the comforting words of Isaiah 40?
Who does the servant in Isaiah 42:1 sound like to you?

Wednesday

Psalm 80 is a prayer for restoration. When in your life have you prayed for restoration?

Thursday

What strikes you about the Lord's promises for restoration in these chapters?

Friday

What catches your attention in these chapters especially as you think about Lent?

Saturday

Who else invited the thirsty to drink water of life? Why is Isaiah 55 important?

Taking Scripture to Heart:

As we continue focusing on the life and teachings of Jesus, our memory text is **Matthew 5:43-48**. Let these verses dwell within you, to help you focus on Jesus Christ, the center of our faith.

Next Sunday: March 29, 2015

Theme: Palm Sunday --The coming ruler of God's people, flashback to triumphal entry

Scripture Focus: *Psalm 118. 19-29; Zechariah 9.9-10; Mark 11. 1-11*