



# The Way of the Cross

Praying at home and following the footsteps of Jesus in 2020 during the coronavirus outbreak

*All images taken from the R. C. Church of Our Saviour, The Hague  
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# Jesus is condemned to death

I



## Reader 1

*O God, in your mercy rescue me. O Lord make haste to help me.  
Let them be put to shame and confounded who seek my life.*

*Psalms 70:1*

## Reader 2

Judas, one of the twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying, "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him." Immediately he went over to Jesus and said, "Hail rabbi!", and kissed him. Jesus answered him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

*Matthew 26:47-50 and 57*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** Lord, we like to believe that we would not have betrayed you, but we know that we betray you and ourselves when we remain silent in the face of injustice. We are bound fast by the selfishness, prejudice, fear and pride, which prevent us from seeing you in our fellow human beings.

**All:** We know that you are still unjustly treated and condemned whenever innocence suffers, and we ask your help in overcoming the fear that hinders love.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

# Jesus takes up the cross

II



## Reader 1

*I am like water poured out; all my bones are racked.  
My heart has become like wax, melting away within my bosom.  
My throat is dried up like baked clay, my tongue cleaves to my jaws;  
to the dust of death, you have brought me down.*

*Psalm 22:15-16*

## Reader 2

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and seated him on the judges' bench in the place called stone pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Take him away! Crucify him!". Pilate said to them "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar". Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying his cross himself he went out to what is called the place of the skull, in Hebrew Golgotha. *John 19:13-17*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." ( Luke 9:23).

We fight against our crosses, even when they are comparatively light and of our own making. We do not want to get involved, so it is easier to allow others to take up the cross on our behalf; It's much easier to salve our consciences by writing or speaking of the sacrifice made by others in their fight for human rights, much easier to allow others to work in our name.

**All:** Lord Jesus, forgive our lethargy and give us the courage we need to take up the cross and follow you.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

# Jesus falls for the first time

III



## Reader 1

*Save me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked;  
preserve me from violent men who plan to trip my feet -  
the proud who have hidden a trap for me.*

*Psalm 86:16*

## Reader 2

There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity. One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

*Isaiah 53:1-3*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** When Jesus washed the feet of the disciples he said, "Do you realize what I have done for you?". *John 13:12*

Lord, we can never fully understand what you did for us in taking up your cross.

So often we are brought to our knees by our own foolishness, but rarely by the humility, awe, and adoration that we should feel in contemplating your sacrifice.

**All:** Lord Jesus, we ask you to forgive our pride, accept our weak and stumbling faith and strengthen us in love.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

# Jesus meets his Mother

IV



## Reader 1

*Turn toward me, and have pity on me;  
give your strength to your servant,  
and save the son of your handmaid.*

*Psalm 86 : 16*

## Reader 2

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted, and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

*Luke 3:33-36*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** To watch a child suffer and die is the ultimate agony and yet, in the newspapers and on television, we see this suffering enacted daily all over our troubled world. We see the same agony and helplessness in the face of an African mother holding her starving child and a mother mourning a son killed in war and we feel helpless in the face of such misery.

**All:** Lord we pray that when confronted with suffering, we will be moved to a compassion that will disturb our inertia. Help us to reflect your love, that we might lessen the agony of our suffering brothers and sisters.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

# Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross

V



## Reader 1

*Look toward me, and have pity on me,  
for I am alone and afflicted.  
Relieve the troubles of my heart,  
and bring me out of my distress.  
Psalm 25:16-17*

## Reader 2

As they led him away, they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenean, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus.

*Luke 23:26*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** We pray for all who are discriminated against because of color, race, creed, sexual orientation, physical appearance or handicap. Teach us to remove all unloving, critical and judgmental thoughts from our minds so that we might recognize your indwelling presence in all mankind.

**All:** Lord Jesus. forgive our lack of tolerance. We know that only when we love as you love will the world be released from the bonds of hatred.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

# Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

VI



## Reader 1

*I will rejoice and be glad of your kindness,  
when you have seen my affliction and  
watched over me in my distress.*

*Psalm 31:8*

## Reader 2

Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least  
brothers of mine, you did for me. *Matthew 25:40*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** So often it is women who serve with the most  
faithfulness and love, both in the church and in the world. We  
remember with thankfulness all the sisters, nurses, teachers, wives,  
mothers, those in ministry of all kinds, who continue to serve and  
whose steadfast faith is an example to us all.

**All:** Lord, we pray for the carers in our society. Help us to perform  
the services that are asked of us, with compassion.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

# Jesus falls for the second time

VII



## Reader 1

*Attend to my cry, for I am brought low indeed,  
Rescue me from my persecutors for  
they are too strong for me.*

*Psalm 142*

## Reader 2

Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth: Like a lamb led to slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth.

*Isaiah 53:7*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** In the Mass we hear the words, "See the victim whose death has reconciled us to yourself." Lord, we really need to believe these words; we need to realize that you came to free us from sin. All too often we fail, and then lose heart.

**All:** Lord Jesus, help us when we are tempted and distracted and find it difficult to persevere in love and service.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*



# Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

VIII



## Reader 1

*Have pity on us, O Lord, have pity on us,  
For we are more than sated with contempt;  
Our souls are more than sated with the mockery of the arrogant  
with the contempt of the proud.*

*Psalms 123:3-4*

## Reader 2

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' *Luke 23:27-29*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** In scripture we read, "...male and female he created them. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good." (*Genesis 1:27 and 3*)

And yet many women throughout the world weep daily for themselves and for their children as they struggle to provide the basic necessities of life. In many countries they struggle against tremendous odds, as they nurture their young, care for the elderly and weak in their communities and keep the spark of faith and love alive. In so many places women are treated like chattels, mutilated, made into beasts of burden, denied their human rights and dignity.

**All:** Lord Jesus, grant freedom and dignity to all who are oppressed, and help us never to become immune to their sufferings.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

# Jesus falls for the third time

IX



## Reader 1

*In the way along which I walk they have laid a trap for me.  
I look to the right to see, but there is no one who pays me heed.*

*I have lost all means of escape;  
there is no one who cares for my life.*

*Psalm 142:4-5*

## Reader 2

Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed.

*Isaiah 53:4-5*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** How difficult it is to persevere, even in the simple things you ask of us. We are like children, we long to do your will but selfishness so often gets in the way. With St. Paul we can say, "I do not understand my own behavior; I do not act as I mean to, but I do the things I hate.

*Romans 7:15*

Lord Jesus, we pray for everyone who experiences life as a burden, and for those who, through loneliness, pain, addiction, despair or lack of love, have given up hope.

**All:** We remember the terminally ill and those tempted to take their own lives; and we ask for the love and compassion we need to help those who have been abandoned by society.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

# Jesus is stripped of his garments

X



## Reader 1

*They look on and gloat over me;  
they divide my garments among them  
and for my vesture they cast lots.  
But you, O Lord, be not far from me;  
O my help, hasten to aid me.  
Psalm 22:18-20*

## Reader 2

They took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be", in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled that says "They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots." This is what the soldiers did.

*John 19:23-24*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** Lord, we need to be stripped; stripped of our shallowness, selfishness and pride and stripped of our attachment to material possessions, because we know that unless we rid ourselves of all these things, we will never be ready for your kingdom; for the revelation of your divine love.

**All:** Lord Jesus, give us the courage to let go of all that is false and unnecessary, so that we can experience the joy, happiness and freedom of life lived in and through you.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

# Jesus is nailed to the cross

XI



## Reader 1

*Indeed many dogs surround me,  
a pack of evil doers closes in upon me;  
They have pierced my hands and my feet  
I can count all my bones.*

*Psalms 22:17-18*

## Reader 2

When they came to the place called the skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. *Luke 23:33*

He surrendered himself to death, and was counted among the wicked; And he shall take away the sins of many and win pardon for their offenses.

*Isaiah 53:12*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** We remember all those who are wrongly imprisoned and tortured. Lord, let your comforting presence sustain them in their agony.

**All:** We pray for the peacemakers and all who work for justice. We pray also for the torturers, that like the crucified thief, they might be influenced by your love, and turn from hate to compassion.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

# Jesus dies on the cross

XII



## Reader 1

*If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt  
Lord, who would survive?*

*But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you.*

*Psalm 130:3-4*

## Reader 2

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi Eloi, lema Sabachtani?" Which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

*Mark 15: 33-34 and 37*

*Please kneel*

**IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.**

**Leader:** Lord, we know that when we let go of our grievances and bitterness and truly forgive, we spread your love and healing in the world.

**All:** Lord Jesus we ask for your forgiveness and for the grace to sincerely forgive all those who hurt us.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

# Jesus is taken down from the cross

XIII



## Reader 1

*To you, O Lord, I cried out;  
with the Lord I pleaded:*

*"What gain would there be from my lifeblood,  
from my going down into the grave?*

*Would dust give you thanks or proclaim your faithfulness?  
Hear, O Lord, and have pity on me; O Lord, be my helper."*

*Psalm 30:9-11*

## Reader 2

When it was already evening, since it was the day of preparation, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Aramathea, a distinguished member of the council, who was himself awaiting the kingdom of God, came and courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was amazed that he was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had already died. And when he learned of it from the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. *Mark 15:42-45*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** Jesus, you said, "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

*Matthew 16:25*

We have to face darkness, not just the darkness of death, but the darkness inside ourselves and in our world.

**All:** Lord Jesus, we know you are always with us; help us to find you in our darkness, that through you we might become a light for the world.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*

# Jesus is laid in the tomb

XIV



## Reader 1

*The cords of death encompassed me;  
the snares of the netherworld seized upon me;  
I fell into distress and sorrow,  
and I called upon the name of the Lord.*

*Psalms 116:3-4*

## Reader 2

Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

*Matthew 27:59-60*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** Our days are numbered, but the power of God is greater than death. Our loving relationships are not severed by death, for love continues. Help us to realize, Lord, that we travel from darkness to eternal light, from death to eternal life, for this is your promise.

**All:** Grant us the grace to surrender ourselves to you in peace at the end of this life and to understand that unless we live with death, we cannot truly appreciate life.

*Jesus remember me when you come  
into your Kingdom.*



It did not end in the tomb...

## Reader 1

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, The beginning and the end...  
Who is and who was and who is to come, The Almighty  
Rev.1:8*

## Reader 2

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved and, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. The other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned home.

*John 20:1-10*

## IN SILENCE WE CONTEMPLATE YOUR LOVE.

**Leader:** Even on this solemn day, the anniversary of Jesus' death, we remember that we are people of the resurrection, and we know that when we recognize the risen Saviour in our midst everything changes. When we allow his saving and healing work to begin in us, we too will be radically changed and the 'good news' of the resurrection will be ours to proclaim.

**All:** Lord Jesus, awaken us so that we might acknowledge your risen presence within us and allow your saving work to begin in our hearts and in our world.

*Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*