

Meditation for Good Friday.

We will look at an overview from John's Gospel of the Lord Jesus' Trial & Crucifixion with comments from one Psalm & one Prophet. We pray that we may understand & take on board the terrible anguish, suffering, humiliation & abandonment by His Father that He experienced, as He bore the penalty for our sins. This should remind us how serious our sins are to a holy God.

HYMN 465 "Meekness & Majesty" especially v. 2

READINGS--John 17: 1-5-where Jesus prays that as He brought God's glory on Earth-eternal life is to "know you, the only true God, & Jesus Christ" - & completed this work, so may God glorify Him in his presence after Good Friday.

--John 18: 1-14-the arrest-note v.11 "Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given Me?", which He hinted at in Jn. 17: 4-5.

--Is. 52: 13-15-the prophet outlines the Messiah's sufferings & that Kings may be amazed at what they see v.15.

REFLECTION

READINGS--John 18: 28-40 -the trial before Pilate, where Jesus points to His Kingdom as not of this world & His role to in testifying to the truth. Pilate knows He is innocent, but offers to release Barabbas.

--Psalm 22: 1-11-the writer experiences both despair & trust in God's deliverance.

HYMN 521 "Oh teach me what it meaneth" especially v. 3

REFLECTION

READINGS--John 19: 1-16a -the trial continues. Jesus is scourged & mocked; Pilate tries, in vain, to save Him, but is frightened into giving Him over to be crucified.

--Is. 50: 4-7-the prophet foretells Messiah's suffering & resolute determination to go through it, knowing he will not be put to shame in the end.

--Is. 53: 7-9-Messiah's innocence & silence is shown, so his death was undeserved.

HYMN 520 " Oh sacred head once wounded" especially v. 3

REFLECTION

READINGS--John 19: 16b-27 the Crucifixion- a prolonged & agonizing death. Even then Jesus cared for his mother.

--Ps. 22: 12-21-the writer foretells many of the humiliating & excruciating details of the Crucifixion.

--Is. 53: 1-6-the prophet explains so vividly Jesus burdens-v. 3 yet this "man of sorrows, familiar with suffering" was "crushed for

our iniquities, for "the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."
Thus His sacrifice has set us free, if we trust Him.

HYMN 26 "All ye that pass by" especially v. 1 "Is it nothing to you that Jesus should die?"

REFLECTION

READINGS—John 19: 28-42-His cry "It is finished" v. 30 is one of triumph, for the penalty of sin has been paid off. Hallelujah.

--Is 53: 9-12 illustrates this-the Messiah, though crushed v. 10a, "will see the light of life & be satisfied" v.11; by the knowledge of him my righteous servant will justify many, & he will bear their iniquities."

REFLECTION

HYMN 478 "My song is love unknown" especially v. 7.

Here might I stay & sing
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

REFLECTION

FINAL PRAYERS-Good Friday collect.

Almighty God, we beseech you graciously to behold this your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and suffer death upon the Cross, who now lives & reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end Amen

Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for the chance to reflect, this Good Friday, on the sufferings, humiliation, love & sacrifice of your Son the Lord Jesus Christ to pay the penalty of our sins. May our reflections be used by your Holy Spirit to strengthen our resolve to love Him more dearly & to follow him more nearly in these worrying times. In his Name we ask it.