

# JESUS IN AGONY

## IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.



They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'

*Mark 14.32 - 36*

EL GRECO AGONY IN THE GARDEN (1590) The National Gallery, London

### Silent Meditation

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you entered the garden of fear  
and faced the agony of your impending death:  
be with those who share that agony  
and face death unwillingly this day.  
You shared our fear and knew the  
weakness of our humanity:  
give strength and hope to the  
dispirited and despairing.  
To you, Jesus, who sweated blood,  
be honour and glory with the  
Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

# JESUS BETRAYED BY JUDAS AND IS ARRESTED

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.



Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

*Mark 14.43 - 46*

MICHELANGELO CARAVAGGIO JUDAS BETRAYS JESUS (1602) THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN, LOAN FROM THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

## Silent Meditation

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were betrayed by the kiss of a friend:  
be with those who are betrayed and slandered and falsely accused.  
You knew the experience of having your love  
thrown back in your face for mere silver:  
be with families which are torn apart by mistrust or temptation.  
To you, Jesus, who offered your face to your betrayer,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

# JESUS CONDEMNED BY THE SANHEDRIN

**All** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.



GIOTTO CHRIST BEFORE CAIAPHAS The Scrovegni Chapel, Padua

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, 'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands".' But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' Jesus said, 'I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power", and "coming with the clouds of heaven".' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?' All of them condemned him as deserving death.

Mark 14. 55 - 64

## Silent Meditation

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were the victim of religious bigotry:  
be with those who are persecuted by small-minded authority.  
You faced the condemnation of fearful hearts:  
deepen the understanding of those who shut themselves off from the  
experience and wisdom of others.  
To you, Jesus, unjustly judged victim,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**All** Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

# IV PETER DENIES JESUS

**All** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.



REMBRANDT VAN RIJN *ST PETER'S DENIAL* (1660) Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

## Silent Meditation

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, as Peter betrayed you,  
you experienced the double agony of love rejected and friendship denied:  
be with those who know no friends and are rejected by society.  
You understood the fear within Peter:  
help us to understand the anxieties of those who fear for their future.  
To you, Jesus, who gazed with sadness at your lost friend,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All** Amen.

**All** Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.

At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.

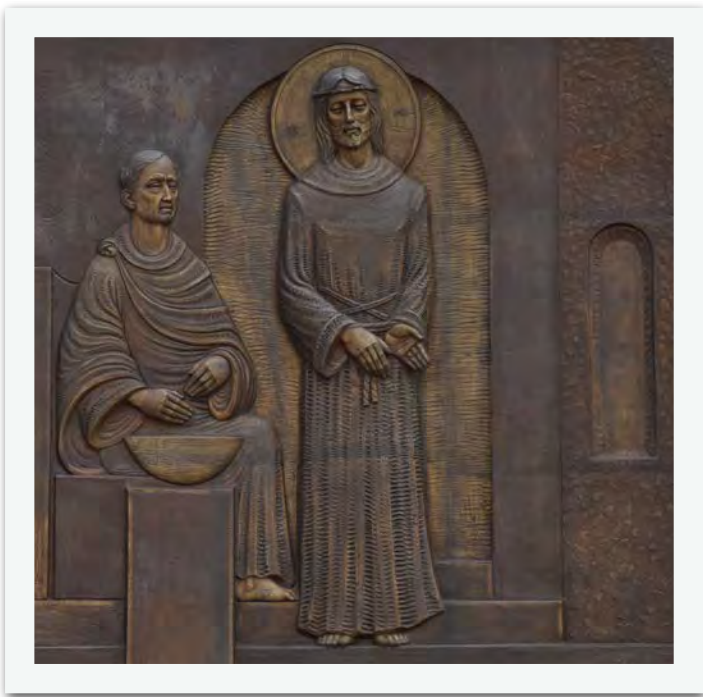
*Mark 14.72*

# V JESUS JUDGED BY PILATE

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.



Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

*Mark 15. 14, 15*

JESUS JUDGED BY PILATE Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City

## Silent Meditation

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death for political expediency:  
be with those who are imprisoned for the convenience of the powerful.  
You were the victim of unbridled injustice:  
change the minds and motivations of oppressors and exploiters to your way of peace.  
To you, Jesus, innocent though condemned,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

# VI JESUS SCOURGED AND CROWNED WITH THORNS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.



And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

*Mark 15. 17 - 19*

ANTHONIJ VAN DIJCK: *CROWNING WITH THORNS* (1620) Museo del Prado, Madrid

## Silent Meditation

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you faced the torment of barbaric punishment and mocking tongue:  
be with those who cry out in physical agony and emotional distress.  
You endured unbearable abuse:  
be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today.  
To you, Jesus, the King crowned with thorns,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

# VII JESUS CARRIES THE CROSS

**All** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.



After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. *Mark 15. 20*

SANDRO BOTTICELLI (C. 1490) BEAVERBROOK GALLERY, FREDRICKTON, CANAD

## Silent Meditation

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you carried the cross through the rough streets of Jerusalem:  
be with those who are loaded with burdens beyond their strength.  
You bore the weight of our sins when you carried the cross:  
help us to realize the extent and the cost of your love for us.  
To you, Jesus, bearing a cross not your own,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us**

# VIII SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY THE CROSS

**All** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.



They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

*Mark 15.21*

GIOVANNI CANAVESIO (1492) CHAPELLE NOTRE-DAME-DES-FONTAINE'S LA BRIGUE, FRANCE

## Silent Meditation

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue:  
be with those from whom life drains all energy.  
You needed the help of a passing stranger:  
give us the humility to receive aid from others.  
To you, Jesus, weighed down with exhaustion and in need of help,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All** Amen.

**All** Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.



# IX JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

**All** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.



A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

*Luke 23. 27 - 31*

*William Mitchell(d.2020) Clifton Cathedral, Bristol*

## Silent Meditation

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, the women of Jerusalem wept for you:  
move us to tears at the plight of the broken in our world.  
You embraced the pain of Jerusalem, the 'city of peace':  
bless Jerusalem this day and lead it to the path of profound peace.  
To you, Jesus, the King of peace who wept for the city of peace,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,**

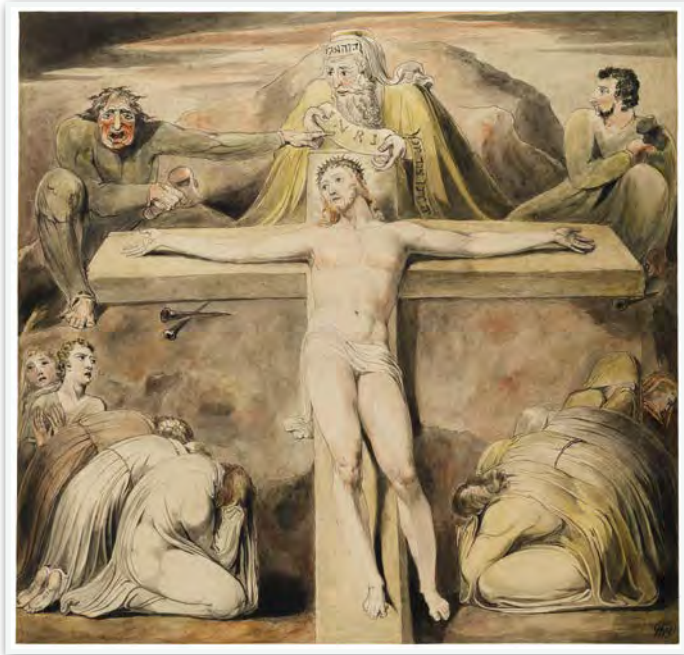
**holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

# X JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.



WILLIAM BLAKE (C.1803) THE MORGAN MUSEUM & LIBRARY, NEW YORK

And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

*Mark 15.24*

## Silent Meditation

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you bled in pain as the nails were driven into your flesh:  
transform through the mystery of your love the pain of those who suffer.  
To you, Jesus, our crucified Lord,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

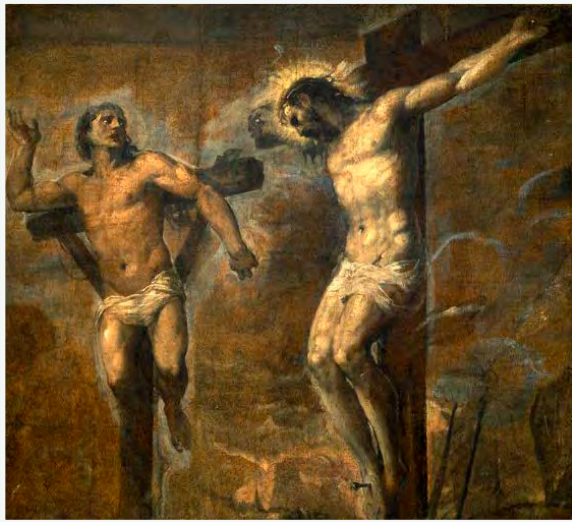
**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

# XI JESUS PROMISES THE KINGDOM TO THE PENITENT THIEF

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.



One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.' *Luke 23. 39 - 43*

TITIAN *CHRIST AND THE GOOD THIEF* (c.1566) PINACOTECA NAZIONALE DI BOLOGNA

## Silent Meditation

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, even in your deepest agony you listened to the crucified thief:  
hear us as we unburden to you our deepest fears.  
You spoke words of love in your hour of death:  
help us to speak words of life to a dying world.  
To you, Jesus, who offer hope to the hopeless,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

# XII JESUS ON THE CROSS HIS MOTHER AND HIS FRIEND

**All** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to John.



When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

*John 19. 26, 27*

ALLEGRETTO NUZI *CHRIST CRUCIFIED; WITH THE VIRGIN MARY, ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE* (1365)  
Birmingham Museum of Art (Alabama)

## Silent Meditation

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, your mother and your dearest friend stayed with you to the bitter end,  
yet even while racked with pain you ministered to them:  
be with all broken families today  
and care for those who long for companionship.  
You cared for your loved ones even in your death-throes:  
give us a love for one another  
that is stronger even than the fear of death.  
To you, Jesus, loving in the face of death,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All** Amen.

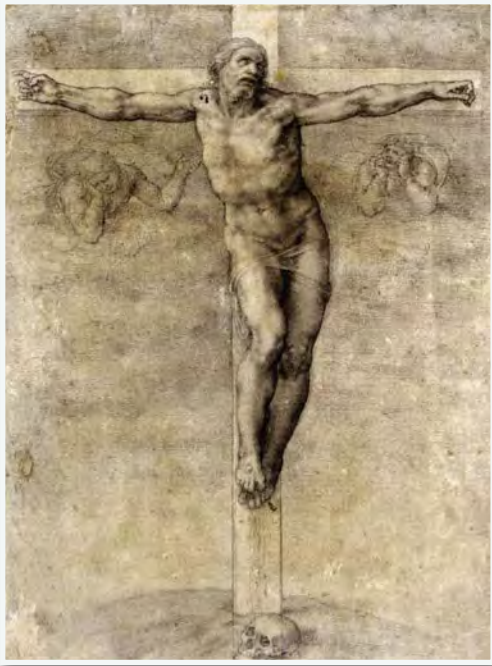
**All** Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.

# XIII JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.



At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

*Mark*

15. 34 - 37

MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI CHRIST CRUCIFIED (1541), BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON

## Silent Meditation

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross  
and entered the bleakest of all circumstances:  
give courage to those who die at the hands of others.  
In death you entered into the darkest place of all:  
illumine our darkness with your glorious presence.  
To you, Jesus, your lifeless body hanging on the tree of shame,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

# XIV JESUS LAID IN THE TOMB

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

## Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.



Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

*Mark 15. 46*

MICHELANGELO DA CARAVAGGIO: *THE ENTOMBMENT OF CHRIST* (c.1602) PINACOTECA VATICANO, ROME

## Reflection / Meditation

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, Lord of life, you became as nothing for us:  
be with those who feel worthless and as nothing in the world's eyes.  
You were laid in a cold, dark tomb and hidden from sight:  
be with all who suffer and die in secret,  
hidden from the eyes of the world.  
To you, Jesus, your rigid body imprisoned in a tomb,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

## THE CONCLUSION

*A response may be made to the preceding stations. This might take the form of praise, penitence, intercession or some other relevant action, accompanied by silence or singing.*

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom  
in the words our Saviour taught us.

### The Lord's Prayer

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

### *One of the following responsories is used*

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,  
and by your blood you ransomed for God  
saints from every tribe and language and nation;  
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests  
serving our God.

**All We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

To him who loves us  
and has freed us from our sins by his blood,  
and made us a kingdom of priests  
to stand and serve before our God;

**All to him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

*(or)*

**All We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Christ was manifested in the body,  
vindicated in the spirit,  
seen by angels,  
proclaimed among the nations,  
believed in throughout the world,  
glorified in high heaven.

**All We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

May God bless us,  
that in us may be found love and humility,  
obedience and thanksgiving,  
discipline, gentleness and peace.

**All Amen.**

*The ministers depart in silence.*