

# The Journey to the Cross

## Readings and Reflections for Holy Week 2020

### INTRODUCTION

*Taize Chant: Bless the Lord, my soul*

*Bless the Lord, my soul,  
And bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
Who leads me into life.*

YOUTUBE LINK 1 – Bless the Lord, my soul <https://youtu.be/t4Svh-9ohg4>

### Jesus sets his face towards the cross

John 12: v.23-28

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

“Now my heart is troubled and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”

#### Reflection

*I open my life to you, Lord,  
I make space in this day for your coming.  
I move from busyness to stillness.  
I move from sounds to your silence.  
I move from insensitivity to awareness.  
I thrust out from the land and look to heaven.  
I open my life to you.  
I open my heart to your love.  
I open my ears to your call.  
I open my eyes to your presence.  
I open my life to you.*

### The Triumphant entry into Jerusalem

*Taize Chant: Hosanna in excelsis  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in excelsis.*

YOUTUBE LINK 2: Hosanna in excelsis <https://youtu.be/rZaZoyduL2w>

Matthew 21:7-9, Luke 19: 39+40

The disciples...brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”  
“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet the stones will cry out.”

Reflection:

*Lord, as you enter Jerusalem for your passion,  
Rouse us from our apathy,  
Deliver us from cosiness,  
Rescue us from complacency,  
And, as we make this pilgrimage with you this Holy Week,  
Teach us the lessons of the cross.*

## **The Last Supper**

*Taize Chant: In the Lord I'll be ever thankful.*

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
In the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid;  
Lift up your voices: the Lord is near,  
Lift up your voices: the Lord is near.*

YOUTUBE LINK 3: In the Lord I'll be ever thankful <https://youtu.be/uAx8gjQrsOY>

Matthew 26:19-30

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “take and eat; this is my body”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Reflection:

*Lord, you welcome us to your Table  
Where you are present with us  
In bread and wine.  
Come to us  
To transform us to be  
Your people,  
Your Body  
In the world of today.*

## The Garden of Gethsemane

Mark 14:32-42

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

### Reflection:

*There in the garden of tears,  
My heavy load he chose to bear;  
His heart with sorrow was torn.  
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.*

Taize Chant: Stay with me

*Stay with me, remain here with me,  
Watch and pray, watch and pray.*

YOUTUBE LINK 4: Stay with me [https://youtu.be/va\\_S5YIPBZA](https://youtu.be/va_S5YIPBZA)

## The betrayal and arrest

Mark 14: 41b-50

"Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

"Am I leading a rebellion?" said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?" Then everyone deserted him and fled.

### Reflection:

*Oh brother Jesus, where have we left you,  
Saviour and Lover of all?*

Taize chant: Within our darkest night

*Within our darkest night  
You kindle the fire that never dies away, that never dies away.  
Within our darkest night,  
You kindle the fire that never dies away, that never dies away.*

YOUTUBE CLIP 5: Within our darkest night <https://youtu.be/9KALsMaLM0Q>

## The road to the cross

Isaiah 53: 6-7

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

*Reflection:*

*Loving Lord,*

*Walking along the way of the Cross,*

*Help us to learn what it means for us*

*To take up our cross*

*Whatever its size, its shape or its weight.*

*Support our steps as they stumble and fall*

*And raise us up by the power of your Spirit. Amen.*

YOUTUBE CLIP 6: Bless the Lord, my soul <https://youtu.be/t4Svh-9ohg4>

BLESSING

*The 4<sup>th</sup> reflection is from 'The Servant King', by Graham Kendrick, and the 5<sup>th</sup> is by John Bell of the Iona Community. The others are all taken from 'The Little Book of Lent', compiled by Canon Arthur Howells.*