

Good Friday – 2024

Friday, 3/29 at 11 am & 7 pm



## The Holy Week Journey

Crucifixion  
Death  
Entombment

Based on the Booklet  
Days 36-39

Text: Mark 15:21-47 NAS-95

**Holy Week:** Th 11 & 7; Fr 11 & 7; Sa 4 | **Easter:** 9 (breakfast 10:30)

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: This year at Bethlehem, *during the season of Lent*, we have been following the booklet: **The Holy Week Journey**, which focuses on the contents of Holy Week according to **St. Mark. 16 of the 40 days in the booklet** focus on the details of Good Friday.

In this sermon, †Jesus is crucified, †Jesus lays down His life, and †Jesus' dead body is placed into a new tomb.

It's Good Friday, about 8:30 in the morning. Jesus has been arrested, tried, beaten, mocked, and condemned. **Now**, He is *greatly struggling* to carry His *100 lb. crossbar* to Golgotha.

**Day 36 (Tu, 3/26) – The Crucifixion – Part 1: 15:21** They pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear His cross [either both men together, or Simon alone].<sup>22</sup> Then they brought [Jesus] to the place [called] Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull.<sup>23</sup> They tried to give Him wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it [because He wanted to be fully alert as He finished His saving work].

<sup>24</sup> And they crucified Him [nailing His hands and feet to His cross], and divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots for them *to decide* what each man should take. <sup>25</sup> It was the third hour [9 AM] when they crucified Him. <sup>26</sup> The inscription of the charge against Him read, “THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

- 4,000 years earlier, the Son of God had created a perfect world in six days. **But then the fall** brought pain, suffering, sadness, and death.
- Therefore, 2,000 years ago, the Messiah, the Christ, the Holy One of God endured the horror of His cross for six hours (9 to 3) – *to take away the sin of the world!*
- God is calling all people – *to repent and believe!*

**Day 37 (We, 3/27) – The Crucifixion – Part 2: 15:27** They crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left. <sup>28</sup> *And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with transgressors.”* <sup>29</sup> Those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, “**Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,** <sup>30</sup> **save Yourself, and come down from the cross!**” <sup>31</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes, were mocking *Him* among themselves and saying, “**He saved others; He cannot save Himself.**” <sup>32</sup> **Let this Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!**” Those who were crucified with Him were also insulting Him.

- Mocking: Adding insult to injury! ♦ Earlier with the Jewish leaders, ♦ then with the Roman soldiers, and ♦ then those passing by, the Jewish leaders again, and both criminals – *one on His left and one on His right.*
- Let’s think about our lives: Do our words and deeds **insult** Jesus, **or** show that we **trust** Him and **love** Him?

**Day 38 (Th, 3/28) – The Death of Jesus: 15:33** When the sixth hour came [*that is, noon*], darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour [*that is, 3 PM*].<sup>34</sup> At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, **“ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?”** which is translated, **“MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”**<sup>35</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they *began* saying, **“Behold, He is calling for Elijah.”**<sup>36</sup> Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink, saying, **“Let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down.”** // During the 3 hours of darkness, Jesus bore *our sins* – which separated Him from God, **and God’s wrath** – which we deserved! The bystanders *misunderstood* Jesus’ shout of “Eloi” for Elijah; however, the drink He received fulfilled a prophecy (Ps. 69:21).<sup>37</sup> And Jesus uttered a loud cry [**“It is finished”** (Jn. 19:30)], and breathed His last.<sup>38</sup> And the veil of the temple was torn in two [*by God*] from top to bottom.<sup>39</sup> When the centurion, who was standing right in front of [Jesus], saw the way He breathed His last, he said, **“Truly this man was the Son of God!”** // Jesus shouted: **IT HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL!** God is calling everyone to receive His **gift** of eternal life! **How?** †Give up on what you are doing to earn heaven, †trust in Jesus for heaven, and †live a new life by following Jesus in everything!<sup>40</sup> There were also *some* women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less **and** Joses, and Salome.<sup>41</sup> When [Jesus] was [doing His ministry] in Galilee, [those women] used to follow Him and minister to Him; and *there were* many other women who came up with [Jesus] to Jerusalem. // Except for John, Jesus’ disciples had fled, *yet those women did not run away!*

**Day 39 (Fr, 3/29) – The Entombment of Jesus’ Body: 15:42** When evening had already come [*just before sunset*], because it

was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,  
<sup>43</sup> Joseph of Arimathea [about 20 miles northwest of Jerusalem]  
came, a prominent member of the Council [but also a disciple  
of Jesus (Jn. 19:38)], who himself was waiting for the kingdom  
of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before  
Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. // Think about Joseph:  
While most other council members **h**ated Jesus and  
**h**esperately wanted Him dead, *Joseph publicly showed His*  
**trust in and love for Jesus!** By the Holy Spirit, let us ✓gather  
courage and ✓live for Jesus – even when it is difficult!

<sup>44</sup> Pilate wondered if [Jesus] was dead by this time [since  
many continued to live for at least 24 hours after being  
crucified (TLSB)], and summoning the centurion, [Pilate]  
questioned him as to whether [Jesus] was already dead.

<sup>45</sup> And ascertaining this from the centurion [that He was  
dead], he granted the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup> Joseph bought a  
linen cloth, [and along with Nicodemus (Jn. 19:39-40)] took  
[Jesus] down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in  
a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a  
stone against the entrance of the tomb. <sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene  
and Mary the *mother* of Joses were looking on to see where  
[Jesus' body] was laid. // Jesus accomplished His GREAT  
WORK to take away the sin of the world in one day (Zech. 3:9).  
When He died and was entombed, **†**it seemed so final,  
**†**thoughts of resurrection had been forgotten, and **†**all hope  
was gone!

Join us on **Saturday at 4:00** for a *resurrection glimpse* and  
**Sunday 9:00** for *the evidence of victory!*

**Let Us Pray:** Dearest Jesus, *TYSVM for taking away our sins!*

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