



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS

Lent Course 2024

'People On The Edge'

Mary: Grieving Mother

Week 4: 12 March 2024

Welcome

Self Examination & Confession

God the Father:

Have mercy on us.

God the Son:

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit:

Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity:

Have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent:

Good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws:

Good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind; from the deceits of the world,
the flesh and the devil:

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of death;
and at the day of judgement:

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation:

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom:

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial:

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit:

Good Lord, deliver us.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and Ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy word.

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

Make our hearts clean, O God:

And renew a right spirit within us.

Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. AMEN.

Song 995 Jesus Christ, I Think Upon Your Sacrifice

Luke 1:39-45 Mary Visits Elizabeth

⁴⁰In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

John 19:16-30 The Crucifixion Of Jesus

¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew* is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth,* the King of the Jews.' ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew,* in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews"', but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' ²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'
²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. ²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

A Few Thoughts

Three Poems

Monologue

Song Mary, Did You Know?

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

- 1) Reflect on how you respond to Mary, the mother of Jesus. How important is Mary in your spirituality?
- 2) Does the experience of motherhood offer a unique insight into the nature of Christian discipleship?
- 3) We have many examples of a loss of a child, not least in current wars. How does your own understanding of parenthood and loss compare to Mary's loss?
- 4) What does the experience of Mary's anguish and loss offer for those who long to experience being parents?

Song 1086 Light Of The World (Here I Am To Worship)

Closing Prayer

Holy One grace us into understanding
Fill us with your Word made flesh
Shrink our certainties and enlarge our need of you
Unlock the dark places in our hearts
So that we might become wholly, completely yours
Grace us into loving and living and laughing
Your Kingdom come. **AMEN.**