



An Invitation to Listen to God

“not what I will but what You will.”



To prepare for the next Small Group meeting you are invited to engage in the following process before you meet each week:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear God’s Word.
- Choose a scripture passage, read it and sit quietly with the Word.
- What moves you or attracts you in this reading?
- Does anything cause resistance in you? Do you know why?
- Take a few minutes to respond in writing to the readings.

Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion March 24, 2024

Reading 1: Isaiah 50: 4-7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Reading 2: Philippians 2: 6-11

Gospel: Mark 14: 1–15: 47
or Mark 15: 1-39

Questions

► *For group discussion:*

1. What do you (or can you) do to “open your ear that you may hear”? How often?
2. Have you confessed that Jesus Christ is your Lord? In all aspects of your life?
3. The second reading describes something that seems far above us. Have you ever heard God’s call for you to be a saint? How will you respond?
4. Have you ever been like Peter? Did Jesus forgive him? Did He trust him, or give him a helper? Do you believe that Jesus will forgive you when you realize your errors and ask for mercy?
5. Is there anything that Jesus could not forgive? Anything in you? Anything you keep buried, for which you haven’t asked for help with or forgiveness for? [*You do not have to share what this is, with your group. Just acknowledge to yourself and to Jesus that you want help with this.*]
6. Jesus constantly says: “[*your name*], do you love Me? ... I love you!” Can you say “yes” and believe Him?

MK 15:1-39

As soon as morning came,
the chief priests with the elders and the scribes,
that is, the whole Sanhedrin held a council.
They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him
over to Pilate.

Pilate questioned him,
"Are you the king of the Jews?"
He said to him in reply, "You say so."
The chief priests accused him of many things.
Again Pilate questioned him,
"Have you no answer?
See how many things they accuse you of."
Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate
was amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release
to them
one prisoner whom they requested.

A man called Barabbas was then in prison
along with the rebels who had committed murder
in a rebellion.

The crowd came forward and began to ask him
to do for them as he was accustomed.

Pilate answered,
"Do you want me to release to you the king of the
Jews?"

For he knew that it was out of envy
that the chief priests had handed him over.

But the chief priests stirred up the crowd
to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

Pilate again said to them in reply,
"Then what do you want me to do
with the man you call the king of the Jews?"
They shouted again, "Crucify him."

Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?"

They only shouted the louder, "Crucify him."

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd,
released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus
scourged,
handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away inside the palace,
that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole
cohort.

They clothed him in purple and,
weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him.

They began to salute him with, "Hail, King of the
Jews!"

and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting
upon him.

They knelt before him in homage.

And when they had mocked him,
they stripped him of the purple cloak,
dressed him in his own clothes,

and led him out to crucify him.

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon,
a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country,
the father of Alexander and Rufus,
to carry his cross.

They brought him to the place of Golgotha
—which is translated Place of the Skull —
They gave him wine drugged with myrrh,
but he did not take it.

Then they crucified him and divided his garments
by casting lots for them to see what each should
take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they
crucified him.

The inscription of the charge against him read,
"The King of the Jews."

With him they crucified two revolutionaries,
one on his right and one on his left.

Those passing by reviled him,
shaking their heads and saying,

"Aha! You who would destroy the temple
and rebuild it in three days,

save yourself by coming down from the cross."

Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes,
mocked him among themselves and said,

"He saved others; he cannot save himself.

Let the Christ, the King of Israel,

come down now from the cross

that we may see and believe."

Those who were crucified with him also kept
abusing him.

At noon darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon.

And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
"*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*"

which is translated,

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Some of the bystanders who heard it said,

"Look, he is calling Elijah."

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it
on a reed

and gave it to him to drink saying,

"Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top
to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him

saw how he breathed his last he said,

"Truly this man was the Son of God!"