

## Monday in Holy Week – ‘Today, you will be with me in paradise’



### GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE

*If you would find it helpful, light a candle to symbolise God’s presence with us. You might also like to place three crosses on a table as we consider these words of Jesus.*

#### Call to worship

We gather in the Name of the One who calls us into being.  
We gather in the Name of the One who comes, not to be served,  
but to serve, and give his life that we might live.  
We gather in the Name of the One who continually embraces us in sacrificial love.  
We gather in the Name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Suggested hymn: [Come, wounded Healer](#) (StF 271) (11/21 & 22)

- 1 Come, wounded Healer, your sufferings reveal –  
the scars you accepted, our anguish to heal.  
Your wounds bring such comfort in body and soul  
to all who bear torment and yearn to be whole.
- 2 Come, hated Lover, and gather us near,  
your welcome, your teaching, your challenge to hear:  
where scorn and abuse cause rejection and pain,  
your loving acceptance makes hope live again!
- 3 Come, broken Victor, condemned to a cross –  
how great are the treasures we gain from your loss!  
Your willing agreement to share in our strife  
transforms our despair into fullness of life.

*Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962)*

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#### Opening Prayer

Loving God, we approach you with confidence today:  
confident that you have created the world around us;  
confident that you have created us in your image;  
confident that you are recreating us through your Holy Spirit;  
confident in your promise of forgiveness and new life through Jesus,  
through his life, death and resurrection.

As we approach you in worship,  
help us to look to the sacrifice of the Cross;  
help us hear your words of forgiveness and freedom;  
help us taste a glimpse of paradise in your kingdom.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### Luke 23: 39-43

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?' <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' <sup>42</sup>Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'  
<sup>43</sup> He replied, **'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'**

### Questions for reflection:

1. Where is 'paradise' for you? Consider drawing a picture to represent this, or find a picture of your 'paradise'.
2. How do you picture 'paradise' as Jesus is promising here?
3. How do you react to Jesus offering this promise to a criminal?
4. How can you offer someone a glimpse of 'paradise' today?

*As you reflect on these words, you might like to listen to the following piece of music: 'In Paradisum' from 'The Requiem' by Gabriel Fauré <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-i1ESIRKdA>*

### A Time of Prayer

*During these prayers, you might like to use the Taizé Chant:*

[Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom](#) (StF 777) (32/02).

*These words can also be spoken as a response.*

*'Today, you will be with me in paradise'*

Lord Jesus, remember us  
when you come into your kingdom.

Remember us,  
not for our impressive CV,  
nor for the things  
which we hope will be said in our eulogy.

***Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;  
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.***

Remember us,  
not for the virtues we occasionally display  
or for any credit  
we think we have in our moral account.

***Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;***

***Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.***

Remember us,  
as one of the criminal community  
who hung at your side,  
and if life will not let us be in paradise  
with you today,  
keep a place for us. Amen.\*  
(Adapted)

***Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom;  
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.***

*Words and Music: © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever. Amen.

**Suggested hymn: [My song is love unknown](#) (StF 277, vv.1&2) (11/28)**

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|---|--|
| <p>1 My song is love unknown,<br/>my Saviour's love to me,<br/>love to the loveless shown,<br/>that they might lovely be.<br/>O who am I,<br/>that for my sake<br/>my Lord should take<br/>frail flesh and die?</p> | <p>2 He came from his blest throne,<br/>salvation to bestow;<br/>but they made strange, and none<br/>the longed-for Christ would know.<br/>But O my Friend,<br/>my Friend indeed,<br/>who at my need<br/>his life did spend!</p> |
|---|--|

*Samuel Crossman (c. 1624-1683)*

### **SENDING OUT**

May God's blessing surround us;  
may God's love fill us;  
may God's peace still us;  
and may we glimpse paradise in this day. Amen.

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