

Formed in Prayer



Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us.
Dear Father, be with us as we pray. Open our ears to hear your
Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel

Luke 23:35-43

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading?
What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?*

Reflection

Rulers sneering, people standing by watching and others mocking and hurling insults toward Jesus. If you had to insert yourself into the Calvary scene depicted by Luke, where would you be standing? What would you be saying and doing? Time will not change the fact that there will always be those who seek to diminish the life of Jesus and ridicule his followers. Their voices can be loud and overbearing but just like the criminal who rebuked the other, we too, through our words and actions, can point to Jesus as King of the Universe.

Jesus gave his life for us and this passage reminds us of the importance of bearing witness to his life, death and resurrection through our own lives, our words and deeds made in Jesus' name. The power of an encounter with Jesus is what we are witnessing in the reading today and our goal as followers of Jesus, evangelisers in our own places and times, is to propose to others, even those who might ridicule us, the transformative life and love of Jesus. *(Luke Maher Catholic Education, Canberra and Goulburn)*

Prayer

Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Help us, guide us and give us strength as we strive to share your light with others.
May all those to whom we minister, through our witness,
encounter you and know the power of your unconditional love.
Amen.