

DAILY PRAYER

Jesus' Crucifixion

Isaiah 53:3-6 p.613

3 He was despised and rejected by
men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with
grief;
and as one from whom men hide their
faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him
not.

4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our
transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that
brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his
own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

1 Peter 2:21-25 p.1015

For to this you have been called,
because Christ also suffered for you,
leaving you an example, so that you
might follow in his steps. 22 He
committed no sin, neither was deceit
found in his mouth. 23 When he was
reviled, he did not revile in return;

when he suffered, he did not threaten,
but continued entrusting himself to
him who judges justly. 24 He himself
bore our sins in his body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to
righteousness. By his wounds you have
been healed. 25 For you were straying
like sheep, but have now returned to
the Shepherd and Overseer of your
souls.

Jesus, thank you for coming for me, for
ransoming me with your own life and
blood *Matt 20:28*. I honour you as my
Lord, I love you, worship you, trust
you. I embrace *Luke 9:23* you as my
redemption and salvation, and I receive
all the work and triumph of your
Crucifixion, whereby I am cleansed
from all my sin through your shed
blood *1 John 1:9*, my old nature is
removed *Col 2:11*, my heart is
circumcised to God *Romans 2:29*, and
every claim being made against me is
disarmed *Col 2:15*. I take my place in
your cross and death, whereby I have
died with you to sin and to my flesh
Romans 6:11, to the world *Gal 6:14*, and
to the evil one *Col 1:13*. I take up my
cross and crucify my flesh with all its
pride, unbelief, and idolatry... I put off
the old man *Eph 4:22*. I now bring the
cross of Christ between me and all
people, all spirits, all things. Holy
Spirit, apply to me the fullness of the
work of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ
for me. I receive it with thanks and
give it total claim to my life.

Sermon Display Texts

Matt 20:28

the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many

Luke 9:23

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Colossians 2:11

In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ

Romans 2:29

29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God

Colossians 2:13-15.

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Romans 6:11

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 6:14

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Colossians 1:13

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son

Ephesians 4:22

to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires.

Jesus, thank you for coming for me, for ransoming me with your own life and blood *Matt 20:28*. I honour you as my Lord, I love you, worship you, trust you.

the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many

Ransom: Payment for freedom from captivity, or avoidance of death after battle. Usually those being ransomed are not in a position to pay themselves.

Jesus – the son of man – came to do exactly that for us: he paid the price of his life for us because we couldn't pay. This was his vocation, his calling.

It revolutionises our ideas about God – or should:

“My proposal is not that we know what the word ‘god’ means, and manage to somehow to fit Jesus into that. Instead, I suggest, that we think historically about a young Jew possessed of a desperately risky, indeed apparently crazy vocation, riding into Jerusalem in tears, denouncing the Temple, and dying on a Roman cross—and we somehow allow our meaning for the word “god” to be re-centered around that point.” —NT Wright

I embrace *Luke 9:23* you as my redemption and salvation, and I receive all the work and triumph of your Crucifixion, whereby:

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me

Redemption: bought back. Green Shield Stamps/Clubcards: We redeem one thing in exchange for another .

Salvation: saved from all that's wrong in the world – including especially myself.

I am cleansed from all my sin through your shed blood 1 John 1:9,

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Two things: 1) **forgiveness** 2) **cleansing**

If we confess. Trump boasted he'd never confessed anything. Repentance is humbly turning around, surrendering to follow Jesus – and it's at the heart of our faith. You can't embrace Jesus as redemption and salvation if you don't confess and look to Jesus.

- 1) **Forgiveness.** Whatever we've done wrong is forgiven. This actually becomes offensive. Who would say Jimmy Saville or Adolf Hitler or even just an abusive family member should be forgiven? But if that isn't possible, Jesus' work fails and means nothing. *Whatever* we've done wrong – anything, everything – when we truly turn to Jesus and his cross to seek forgiveness, we get it.
- 2) **Cleansing.** Sometimes it's our own sin that damages us. Sometimes it's other people's sin. Sometimes it my own response to other people's sin. Whatever the source, when we've been hurt, damaged, dirtied – in any way put to shame – then we can make this claim on Jesus: we are cleansed from sin and shame.

Shame is that crippling sense of unworthiness, no good-ness, dirtyness, that clings to many of us. *Forgiveness slays shame.* In Jesus and his cross, we are both forgiven *and* cleansed. *Everything* can go on him on the cross.

my old nature is removed *Colossians 2:11*,

In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ

Driving up the M1 – there used to be giant cooling towers near Sheffield. They were a familiar landmark, but are now demolished. On the approach it *feels like* they should be there – but they aren't

So it is with our old nature. Everything bad in me – my sin and shame dies with Jesus on the cross; it's demolished. So often, though, it *feels like* it hasn't been removed – and I often act and react as if it is still there. But it has gone. 'I am not that man, that woman any more' – even if it feels like it and even when I act like it.

It's a great reminder when we do go wrong. Because of what Jesus has done, and because I have "embraced him as my salvation" and been born of the Spirit, I can always assert this again when I fall down in any way, big or small – not as an excuse for indulging wrongdoing, but as a fact about me which gives me space to grow again. Actually, my old nature is demolished; it feels like it's there, but it's not, and I don't have act of that nature any more. .

my heart is circumcised to God *Romans 2:29*\

29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God

Circumcision was an outward sign of religious belonging to a people who have an agreement, a covenant, with God.

It's physical – something outward which marks the body. A bit like a **tattoo**.

I could have “God is love” tattooed on my forehead, but that wouldn't make me a loving person.

What makes me loving is a permanent, unalterable change of heart. Getting a new heart from God – changing on the inside – is what's really important.

and every claim being made against me is disarmed *Colossians 2:15*.

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Satan likes to lie and accuse us. Sometimes we like to believe him too – it gives us licence to indulge the worst of ourselves, and excuse ourselves. People sometimes like to accuse as well, and we live increasingly in a culture where someone – someone else – is to blame. Accusations, whether true or groundless can hurt and demoralise us.

However, our debts are actually completely cancelled, so when the ‘bailiff’ comes round and pushes into our hearts and minds demanding more money, we do not have to pay ever again.

Jesus has beaten satan and put him to shame in this way: consequently everything satan tries to do or say to us falls flat.

Why? Because I’m a good person, or at least better than other people? No way; we all really do fall short. However, we’re free from Satan’s lies and accusations solely because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

I take my place in your cross and death, whereby I have died with you to sin and to my flesh *Romans 6:11*

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Die to our old nature, rise to the new. That's the rule of the Christian life. That's how we're to think of ourselves. Not indulging our old faults and our old nature ('the flesh'), not bound to keep on sinning and falling in the same old ways, but set free to live well.

Again. it's identity, who I really am. I am crucified with Christ...

I have died with you ...to the world *Galatians 6:14*,

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Once we really taste something of our new life in Jesus, the old life begins to lose its charms. All the things we used to get caught up in, or even enjoy, no longer have a hold on us. The more we grow in real, true, good Christian faith, the less we want of what the world holds dear.

and I have died with you ...to the evil one *Colossians 1:13*.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son

“Deliver us from evil”. He has – on the cross. Football transfer: when Alex Ferguson signed Eric Cantona from Leeds United, Eric was thereafter delivered to play for Man U. It would have been weird if he had then kept coming to Leeds United training sessions or Leeds United matches. He didn’t – he couldn’t – because he’d been transferred to a different team.

Same for us who are in Jesus. Whether we realise it or not, without Jesus we’re pretty much playing for the darkness. When we embrace Jesus and his cross, we transferred to his team which is in the light. Playing for the dark dream ever again is impossible.

I take up my cross and crucify my flesh with all its pride, unbelief, and idolatry...

Pride: I know better than God

Idolatry: I rely on something/someone other than God

Unbelief: I refuse to trust in God

When we crucify those things, kill them off, we instead get:

Pride -> **Humility** before the God who saves me

Idolatry -> **Worship** of the God who created me

Unbelief -> **Trust** in the God who loves me and gives himself for me

I put off the old man *Ephesians 4:22*.

to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires

Choice! Like choosing to change clothes. We can resolve to live differently – and by the power living in us, our choice becomes more and more possible.

I now bring the cross of Christ between me and all people, all spirits, all things.

Identity again. We are no longer identified by anything other than what Jesus has done for us.

Bringing the cross between us and anything is a good idea – because it helps us keep hold of objective reality.

If someone has hurt us and can still do so, we have to deal with them, see them through the cross: that reminds us Jesus takes away our sin and shame, and that we no longer have to be caught up in someone else's erroneous and damaging ways. We can see them and their behaviour as it really is rather than being caught up in their subjective ways of living and manipulating, or whatever.

If we're tempted in any situation, choose to see the cross between us and the situation – it reminds us we are free to choose what is right.

Holy Spirit, apply to me the fullness of the work of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ for me. I receive it with thanks and give it total claim to my life.

Bono: Perhaps I can't change the world, but I can change the word in me. This section of the Daily Prayer helps me change on the inside for the better. Every day we can take on something which helps us become part of God's solution and God's salvation – for us and the world

They say that none of us can ever fully understand what Jesus did on the cross, for each of us and for the whole world, even the whole universe.

But understanding begins with humility – the choice to trust God. Should I trust him? If he exists, isn't he a big powerful uncaring force, not interested in me, in our hurting for;d.

Whatever you think God is like, start again with the Jesus of the Bible and history:

“My proposal is not that we know what the word ‘god’ means, and manage to somehow to fit Jesus into that. Instead, I suggest, that we think historically about a young Jew possessed of a desperately risky, indeed apparently crazy vocation, riding into Jerusalem in tears, denouncing the Temple, and dying on a Roman cross – and we somehow allow our meaning for the word “god” to be re-centered around that point.” —NT Wright

The cross of Jesus is the extreme humility of God for the love of me, and you, and the world. He offers salvation and life to the full. By his wounds you have been healed.

Do you want to be who you really, truly are? Give yourself to Jesus and his healing every day. CS Lewis:

The more we get what we now call ‘ourselves’ out of the way and let Him take us over, the more truly ourselves we become... It is no good trying to ‘be myself’ without Him. The more I resist Him and try to live on my own, the more I become dominated by my own heredity and upbringing and surroundings and natural desires. In fact, what I so proudly call ‘Myself’

becomes merely the meeting place for trains of events which I never started and which I cannot stop. What I call 'My wishes' become merely the desires thrown up by my physical organism or pumped into me by other men's thoughts or even suggested to me by devils... I am not, in my natural state, nearly so much of a person as I like to believe: most of what I call 'me' can be very easily explained. It is when I turn to Christ, when I give myself up to His Personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own.

[Nevertheless], you must not go to Christ for the sake of a new self. As long as your own personality is what you are bothering about, you are not going to him at all.

Give up yourself and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favourite wishes every day, and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fibre of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will really be yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in – CS LEWIS, 'Mere Christianity'