



Praying with the 7 Words of Jesus on the Cross

Today is that day when the world witnessed 7 powerful words that sprung from the depth of the 'genuine love' (Jesus) that was crucified and pierced. 'The love' that embarrassed the world in its totality. 'The love' that lived its commitment till the last drop of blood. It never lost its exclusive quality even in the most adverse situation. If we appropriate the Marga (way) of Jesus, cross and death are inevitable.

The suffering and death of Jesus is not only an event of the past. Today as we look around with our eyes of faith, we notice that Christ is being crucified continuously.



Let us contemplate these words of Jesus from the Cross in the depth of our inner being allowing them to echo today's realities in the world and my response to it. (Pause):

'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.' (Lk. 23: 34)

How do I forgive? Who needs this forgiveness from me/us? (2-minute reflection)

'In truth I tell you today you will be with me in paradise.' (Lk. 23: 43)

How do I reciprocate humbleness?

Who needs this promise of understanding from me/us? (2-minute reflection)

'Woman, this is your son! ... This is your mother!' (Jn. 19: 26 f.)

How do I accompany? Who needs the accompaniment from me/us? (2-minute reflection)

'I am thirsty.' (Jn. 19: 28)

What is the Jesus of today's world thirsty for? How can I quench this thirst?
(2-minute reflection)

'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Mt. 27: 46)

Who are the lonely and abandoned faces of Jesus who are seeking support?
How can I welcome these faces? (2-minute reflection)

'It is fulfilled.' (Jn. 19: 30)

Who can say these words of Jesus now?

How can I share the quality of the love Jesus lived? (2-minute reflection)

'Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.' (Lk. 23: 46)

I remain in silence and in trust.... placing the world in the Father's hands.
(2 minutes of deep silence)



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

(Leader reads the following litany in red, the response is in black)



Lord Jesus, son of God...

Have mercy on us

Lord Jesus, born under the bombs of Kyiv...

Have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus, dead in the arms of a mother in Kharkiv...

Have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus, in the 20-year-olds sent to the frontline...

Have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus, who continues to see hands armed with weapons under the shadow of the cross... Forgive us.

Forgive us, Lord... *if, not content with the nails with which we pierced your hand, we continue to drink from the blood of the dead torn apart by weapons.*

Forgive us Lord... *if these hands that you had created to protect have been turned into instruments of violence and death.*

Forgive us, Lord... *if we continue to kill our brother in Bucha. if we continue like Cain to take the stones from our field to kill Abel.*

Forgive us Lord... *if we go out of our way to justify cruelty, if, in our pain, we legitimize the cruelty of our actions.*

Forgive us Lord... *if we fail to protect the mother earth who is a lifeline for tomorrow's humanity.*

(Adopted from Archbishop Domenico Battaglia of Naples, prayer for Ukraine Russia war)

Closing Song: [Now We Remain \(David Haas\)](#)

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General Council



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