



Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



“Journeying Through the Dark”

Dismantling Racism: Council of Bishops Lenten Devotional Series

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, Louisiana Episcopal Area

Good Friday, April 2, 2021

Scripture: Mark 15:22-37

They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!” In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

Key points:

- As Christians, we must take the whole journey of Lent. During this Holy Week we cannot skip over the darkness of Good Friday and the cross in order to get to resurrection and Easter Sunday.
- Britney Winn Lee, “If Easter Sunday is *God for us* then Good Friday is *God with us*.”
 - God is with all who suffer, especially the oppressed and marginalized.
- Jesus’ walk on the Via Dolorosa gives us a sense of his sacrificial solidarity with all who are outcast, discriminated against and abused.

