

1.

O sacred head, sore wounded,
defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head surrounded
with mocking crown of thorn:
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendor
the hosts of heaven adore!

Thy beauty, long-desirèd,
hath vanished from our sight;
thy power is all expired,
and quenched the light of light.
Ah me! for whom thou diest,
hide not so far thy grace:
show me, O Love most highest,
the brightness of thy face.

First Reading: Isaiah 53.4-6

The disfigured face of Christ confronts a world that prizes beauty, power, and status. Here is God identified with the shamed and the stripped. At this cross, inequality is exposed and the forgotten are honoured.

Lord Jesus,
who became poor for our sake,
break our pride and loosen our
grip on privilege.
**Christ crucified,
you stand with the dispossessed.**

Where systems crush and exclude,
and others pay for our choices,
turn us toward justice and mercy.
**Christ crucified,
make us instruments of
your justice.**

2.

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God:
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Second Reading: Philippians 2.5-8

In a culture of endless accumulation, the cross declares that life is not found in possessing but in giving. Love so amazing is divine and demands not more consumption but surrender.

Merciful God,
forgive us our greed and
restless desire.
**Christ crucified,
you show the freedom of enough.**

Where we have taken more than
we need and closed our hands to
others, have mercy on us.
**Christ crucified,
open our hands in generosity.**

3.

**Were you there when they
crucified my Lord?** [x2]
Oh! Sometimes it causes me
to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they
crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they
nailed him to a tree? [x2]
Oh! Sometimes it causes me
to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they
nailed him to a tree?

Were you there when he
bowed his head & died? [x2]
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to
tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when he
bowed his head & died?

Third Reading: Matthew 27.24-26

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? At the cross we see our violence laid bare. Christ dies under empire's cruelty. He dies in every bombed city, in every grieving mother's arms, in every young life sent to the front line. At the cross we see all violence laid bare - and we are summoned to another way.

Lord Jesus,
forgive us for war and
the hatred that fuels it.
**Christ crucified,
have mercy on us.**

Disarm our hearts,
and stop the violence of our hands.
**Christ crucified,
make us makers of peace.**

4.

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Lovingkindness as the flood;
When the Prince of Life my ransom,
Shed for me His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He shall never be forgotten,
Through heav'n's everlasting days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Thro' the flood gates of God's mercy
Flow'd the vast and gracious tide;
Grace and love like mighty rivers
Pour'd incessant from above,
And heav'n's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Fourth Reading: Matthew 27.45-51

On the mount of crucifixion, creation itself trembled. Today the earth groans - forests burn, seas rise, species vanish. The wounds of Christ echo in the wounds of the planet. Yet through the floodgates of mercy flows a love wide enough to heal all creation.

Giver of life,
where we have crucified the earth
through neglect and excess,
have mercy on us.
**Christ crucified,
renew the face of the earth.**

Where hope is scorched and
communities displaced,
let righteousness and restoration rise.
**Christ crucified,
make us stewards of your creation.**

5.

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Fifth Reading: Ephesians 2.13-14

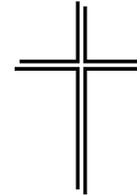
Grace gathers all those who have failed,
all those who have been excluded,
all those who stand in need.
At the cross, heaven's justice and mercy meet.
Through the cross, strangers become neighbours,
enemies become sisters and brothers.

Lord of tomorrow,
draw us into your future of welcome
and belonging.

**Christ crucified,
gather us into one.**

Where we exclude, divide,
or fear the other,
transform us into a
community of grace.

**Christ crucified,
transform hostility into humanity.**



GOOD FRIDAY **WALK OF WITNESS**

Carrying the cross in a fracturing world

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