

**Friday of Holy Week**  
***The Last Five Days. . .***

***Opening Responses***

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place.

Here may the faithful find salvation,  
***and the careless be awakened.***

Here may the doubting find faith,  
***and the anxious be encouraged.***

Here may the tempted find help,  
***and the sorrowful, comfort.***

Here may the weary find rest,  
***and the strong be renewed.***

Here may the aged find consolation  
***and the young be inspired.***

Through Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

"He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him;  
**\* let him rescue him, if he delights in him."**

Yet you are he who took me out of the womb,  
**\* and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.**

I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; **\* you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.**

Be not far from me, for trouble is near, **\* and there is none to help**

***Psalm 22***

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? **\* and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?**

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; **\* by night as well, but I find no rest.**

Yet you are the Holy One, **\* enthroned upon the praises of Israel.**

Our forefathers put their trust in you; **\* they trusted, and you delivered them.**

They cried out to you and were delivered; **\* they trusted in you and were not put to shame.**

But as for me, I am a worm and no man, **\* scorned by all and despised by the people.**

All who see me laugh me to scorn; **\* they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,**

***"It was on a Friday".....***

***The Iona Community***

It was on the Friday  
that they ended it all.

Of course, they didn't do it one by one.  
They weren't brave enough.  
All the stones at the one time  
or no stones at all.

They did it in crowds. . .  
in crowds where you can feel safe and lose yourself  
and shout things  
you would never shout on your own,  
and do things you would never do  
if you felt the camera was watching you.

It was a crowd in the church that did it,  
and a crowd in the civil service that did it,  
and a crowd in the street that did it,  
and a crowd on the hill that did it.

And he said nothing.

He took the insults,  
the bruises,

the spit on the face,  
the thongs on the back,  
the curses in the ears.  
He took the sight of his friends turning away,  
running away.

And he said nothing.

He let them do their worst  
Until their worst was done,  
as on Friday they ended it all. . .  
and would have finished themselves  
had he not cried,  
“Father, forgive them. . .”

And began the revolution.

**Scripture reading     Mark 15:1-39**

### **Homily**

### **Quiet reflection**

Glorious God, your thoughts are not our  
thoughts.

Neither are your ways our ways.

You look at the ugliest soul and see, still  
unstirred, the wings of an angel.

**We scan the finest of our neighbors,  
anxious to find the flaw.**

You view time in the context of eternity, and  
so find a place for waiting, for yearning,  
even for suffering, even for dying.

**We demand instant results; and look for  
tomorrow before savoring today.**

You know that only one who suffers can  
ultimately save that is why you walk the  
way of the cross.

**We fear that vulnerability which defies our  
power; and so we cry for crucifixion.**

Your thoughts are not our thoughts,  
**Neither are your ways our ways.**

And yet we know that your way is the ladder  
to heaven, while, left to our own devices,  
our ways slope downward to hell.

But we are here, not to have our worst  
confirmed, but to have our best liberated.

So we pray,

**Forgive in us what has gone wrong,  
Repair in us what is wasted,  
Reveal in us what is good.**

And nourish us with better food than we could  
ever purchase:

Your word, Your love, Your inspiration.  
Your daily bread for life's journey in the  
company of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Closing Words**