***Good Friday: Crucifixion***

**Luke 23:26-49; Psalm 22 April 10, 2020**

***When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him . . . . It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour,
for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.
Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”
When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened,
praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.”*Luke 23:33-47**

**Reading: Luke 23:26-49**

**Reflecting:**

In Jesus’ last minutes on the cross he cries over Jerusalem, forgives those who crucify him, invites a thief into paradise, and then expresses his confidence in his Father. We affirm that a great transaction occurred at the cross, that Jesus died *pro me*. But just as important is the expression of God’s love in how Jesus died, with his eyes on the city, his followers, his enemies and his Father. And the created order (the sun) and the religious system (the curtain) and the Gentile world (the centurion) bear witness to God’s love in action.

How did you respond when you first understood the full extent of God’s love for us? This question could be asked this way: with what person on that hill far away do you most identify with?

Which response (sun, curtain, centurion) most resonates with you today? How does this response reflect the wonder of the moment – the wonder of redeeming love and our unworthiness?

**Praying: Psalm 22**

*For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him, but has listened to his cry for help.
From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows,
The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the Lord will praise him – may your hearts live for forever!* Psalm 22:24-26

So much of David’s psalm anticipates the cross, from “My God, my God” to “for he has done it”, but the end of the psalm goes beyond the cross to God’s response to the suffering of the afflicted. He will not let his Son or his children suffer beyond what is necessary for salvation and sanctification. The psalm reflects that when it ends with confidence that God has listened to our cry for help.

*Father, reveal to us one more time the love that held Jesus on the cross. Remind us that darkness only gets three hours, that poor, satisfied hearts live forever.*

*Thank you for the time today to “watch these things” and wonder at the Savior who gave himself for us.*

*And, Father, give us Jesus’ heart for the city, for the sinner and for you.*