

## **Good Friday**

I once read a short story about Good Friday. The characters of the story were God's angels. The story explained that humans call this day, "Good Friday," because on this day, God paid the price for our salvation. God's Angels call this day "Bad Friday," because in order for the Son of God to take on the weight of the sin of the world he had to separate himself from God the Father and refused the aid of the angels. As we say in our Creed, "He descended into hell." Our catechism states, "Scripture calls the abode of the dead, to which the dead Christ went down, "hell" – *Sheol* in Hebrew or *Hades* in Greek – because those who are there are deprived of the vision of God." (CCC, 633) The Angels suffered deeply on Good Friday. They were denied the ability to attend to our suffering Lord. " Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me."" (Mark 15:34)

This day is the darkest day in our Church year. We are called to sit with Jesus' suffering, and the suffering of our world.

*Cristina Czaia, Director of Music and Liturgy*

## **From Pope Francis' Way of the Cross, April 19, 2019:**

Lord Jesus, help us to see in your Cross all the crosses of the world:

The cross of those who hunger for bread and for love;

The cross of those who are alone or abandoned even by their own children and family members;

The cross of those who thirst for justice and peace;

The cross of those who do not have the comfort of the faith;

The cross of the elderly who are bowed down under the weight of years and loneliness;

The cross of migrants who find doors closed because of fear, and hearts sealed by political calculations;

The cross of the little ones, wounded in their innocence and purity;

The cross of humanity that wanders in the darkness of uncertainty and in the darkness of the culture of the fleeting moment;

The cross of families broken by betrayal, by the seductions of the evil one or by murderous lightness and by selfishness;

The cross of consecrated persons who tirelessly seek to bring your light into the world and feel rejected, mocked and humiliated;

The cross of consecrated persons who, along the way, have forgotten their first love;

The cross of your children who, believing in you and trying to live according to your word, find themselves marginalized and discarded even by their families and their peers;

The cross of our weaknesses, our hypocrisies, our betrayals, our sins and our many broken promises;

The cross of your Church which, faithful to your Gospel, struggles to carry your love even among the baptized themselves;

The cross of the Church, your bride, who feels continually attacked from within and from without;

The cross of our common home that withers seriously before our selfish eyes that are blinded by greed and power.

Lord Jesus, rekindle in us the hope of the resurrection and of your definitive victory against all evil and all death. Amen!

<https://sites.google.com/view/popefrancishomilies/good-friday>

*The Church of St. Matthew is a Catholic community that is a visible expression of God's love.*