

## 6th Sunday in Lent: Liturgy of the Passion

Reflections on the Passion of Christ (Based on Luke 22:14- 23:56)

These may be used as part of a daily reflection, as a reflection for Passion Sunday or an alternative to the Stations of the Cross.

### Eucharist

God of suffering love,  
As we eagerly await a place at your table of love,  
We remember the passion of Jesus with thanksgiving and lament  
We remember the Passover cup and the promised fulfilment  
We remember the loaf, taken, broken and given  
We remember the cup, poured out like blood,  
Announcing a new covenant of love and fidelity.  
*We remember those who nurture and nourish others through personal sacrifice.*

### Servanthood

God of suffering love,  
We pray for all who know themselves betrayed by those they love or trust,  
We pray for those who argue and fight for prominence and recognition,  
We remember that the greatest is to be as the least, and the leader as one who serves.  
We give thanks for the servant leadership of Jesus.  
*We remember those who serve others without counting the cost or seeking honour.*

### Temptation

God of suffering love,  
You confer on us a kingdom of love,  
You invite us to eat and drink at your table,  
You sift us and refine us,  
Though we betray and deny you.  
Give us the courage to stand firm for the truth,  
To resist the temptation to go along with the crowd,  
To remember those held captive to populism and spin.  
*We remember those who suffer because they refuse to compromise their faith.*

### Gethsemane

God of suffering love,  
As we retreat to the summit of this sacred story,  
We face the wilderness and the vista of sadness.  
Grant that we may not be tried beyond our strength,  
That we may pray with eager desire amidst our fears,  
Even as we seek release from all that binds us.  
Trusting in your divine love;  
We await an angel to minister your grace.  
*We remember those who face trials daily as they serve others in challenging places.*

### LENT 6

### Arrest

God of suffering love,  
As we sleep in the calm before the storm,  
As we witness the sudden arrival of danger,  
The moment of disturbing truth,  
The kiss of betrayal,  
The response of aggression,  
The vengeance and healing,  
The questioning: why is all this necessary?  
*We remember those who are accused and imprisoned because of their faith.*

### Trial

God of suffering love,  
We remember the many trials of life,  
The questions with no answers,  
The decisions with no justice,  
The threefold denial and bitter weeping,  
The beating and mocking,  
The blindfolding and insults,  
The accusations and fabrications,  
The desperate fault finding,  
The pressure to accuse and to blame.  
*We remember those who are ridiculed and mistreated as they serve others.*

### Conviction

God of suffering love,  
We remember the demand for Jesus' life without just cause,  
We remember the preference for a common criminal,  
We remember the buck passing and the denial of responsibility  
We remember the demands and the shouts of the crowds  
We remember the carrying of the cross for the sake of another  
We remember the weeping of women,  
We remember the hope of the criminal,  
We remember the promise of Paradise.  
*We remember those working in places where there is political or cultural discord.*

### Death

God of suffering love,  
In the strange darkness of noonday:  
We witness dispossession and division;  
The loud cry of resignation – enough is enough;  
The final eternal breath – dying yet life giving;  
The belated recognition of innocence beyond hearing;  
The disciples watching from an uncomfortable distance;  
The subversive leader asking for the body of Jesus;  
Seeing a chance to await the kingdom of God:  
Wrapping the body, finding a new tomb,  
Women preparing spices and ointments,  
Seeing the body laid out,  
Joining in the Sabbath rest.  
*We remember those who die for their faith and those who mourn their loss.*



*The Separation Wall which separates Bethlehem from Jerusalem.*