



Week 3
20 - 26 November 2022

ORDINARY TIME



THE LECTORY (6 - 26 NOVEMBER 2022)

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

CONTENT:

Weekly:

Sunday sermon Bible readings,
Worship song,
Reflection,
Small group questions,
Family time.

Daily:

Memory verse,
Prayer.

BIBLE READINGS

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Week 1 - 6 November - All Intimacies Will Be with God

Week 2 - 13 November - Watch Out for Doomsday Deceivers

Week 3 - 20 November - Skull Hill

WEEK 3:22 November

Skull Hill



Luke 23:33-43 The Message Skull Hill

³³ When they got to the place called Skull Hill, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴⁻³⁵ Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive them; they don’t know what they’re doing.” Dividing up his clothes, they threw dice for them. The people stood there staring at Jesus, and the ringleaders’ made faces, taunting, “He saved others. Let’s see him save himself! The Messiah of God—ha! The Chosen—ha!” ³⁶⁻³⁷ The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him, making a game of it. They toasted him with sour wine: “So you’re King of the Jews! Save yourself!” ³⁸ Printed over him was a sign: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁹ One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him: “Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us!” ⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ But the other one made him shut up: “Have you no fear of God? You’re getting the same as him. We deserve this, but not him—he did nothing to deserve this.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you enter your kingdom.”

⁴³ He said, “Don’t worry, I will. Today you will join me in paradise.”

WORSHIP SONG:



Song: Amazing love, Graham Kendrick
(original artist)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFL6rpUmwH0>



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION WRITTEN BY:

Rev Gavin Landers

Roman custom was that the four soldiers officiating over each person crucified could share whatever garments remained after stripping the person being executed. Under the cross, these four soldiers therefore begin to divide the five items of clothing worn by every Jewish male - the inner tunic, the outer robe, the girdle, the sandals, and the turban, between themselves – casting lots to see who gets what.

It's hard to understand why people would enter into such behavior. This act that was in poor taste: it was superfluous and trivialized the reality and plight of a suffering and dying person, by people who sought personal pleasure in the midst of great suffering. It was an inhumane act – an act that when looking back on in hindsight, I'm sure even the soldiers would not be able to give any kind of rational explanation as to why they did what they did; they just did it because it could be done and seemed okay at the time.

Something was wrong with these soldiers who were playing games at the foot of the cross. Something is wrong in this world. It is not out of place to condemn such behaviour; to look it with contempt; to be appalled that people could behave so poorly – in such a depraved and inhumane manner.

But in the face of such acts, we hear the words of someone who knows what is wrong more than any of us, someone who Himself is not wrong. We hear the words of someone who is not wrong in saying, “*Forgive them, for they know not what they do.*” And these words unsettle us... Let us be unsettled. Let us be disturbed. Let us wrestle with the God of grace and mercy and forgiveness. But let us not miss moving on to receiving His spirit into our lives to address all that is wrong, so that His Kingdom may come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Let us not miss the resurrection reality that flows from the words of someone who is not wrong in saying, “*Forgive them, for they know not what they do.*”

Life Application

It is easy to look at such acts and question the world we live in and be shocked and stunned and disgraced and affronted and disillusioned and reactionary – maybe declaring, “What is the world coming to?” And it would not be wrong to respond in this manner. What would be wrong however is to disassociate ourselves from the fallen state of humanity, from people being less than they should be – inhumane. These four Roman soldiers casting lots for the clothes of Jesus confront us with our own behaviour.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Share a moment when you thought others acted in poor taste – were offensive to those around them.
2. Have you ever grabbed and clutched at things not yet yours but somehow thought you had some valid claim on them?
3. Have you ever misrepresented the truth and acted as if the lie which sounded so close to reality was a legitimate response?
4. How can we not trivialise the suffering of others – live life in total disregard for the pain and suffering around us?



DAILY MEMORY VERSE AND PRAYER

DAY	VERSES	PRAYER
MONDAY	Revelation 22:12	Father, thank you for the reminder that your reward awaits us for that which we do in this world. Amen
TUESDAY	Jeremiah 30:21	Father, bring me near so that I may live close to you. Amen
WEDNESDAY	Psalm 117:1-2	Father, we praise you, for great is your love towards us. Amen
THURSDAY	James 4:7	Father, may I submit to you, resist all evil by putting distance between me and it. Amen
FRIDAY	Psalm 122:8	Father, for the sake of those I live with, may Your peace find its place within my being. Amen
SATURDAY	Matthew 24:13	Father, keep me standing firm to the end. Amen



BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN’S PASTOR
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Scripture: Luke 23:33-43

The liturgical (church calendar) year goes through seasons, just as the weather and annual calendar have seasons. The church year begins with the Advent season, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. It may seem out of place to focus on the death of Christ right before the season welcoming His birth, but it marks a transition.

The objective of this message is to remind kids that we are thankful for the birth of Jesus, but we can be most thankful for His ultimate death and resurrection.

Discuss:

The season of Advent, which we are approaching, is connected to what holiday? (Christmas)

When you think of Christmas what do you think of? (fun decorations, and special songs, and of course presents!)

What special thing would you like to receive this year for Christmas?

Our scripture was kind of odd, hearing about Christs death when we are preparing for his birth right? The cross isn't the first thing we might think of when we think of Christmas, but this is a reminder of why we get to celebrate Christmas.

Advent is an important season because we remember that God kept His promise and sent a Saviour, a Messiah for us. It is amazing and fantastic that Jesus came to Earth and was born as a human to live among us. We also need to recognize why He came. He was born to die. He grew up and lived with people, but then He went to the cross and gave up His life, in a very painful way! And because of that, we can have eternal life with God. Jesus died for everyone. For you, for me, for the criminals next to Him on the cross. He did that so our sins can be forgiven.

Take a moment as a family to think or talk about things that we may need forgiven.

When you are ready pray together

Dear God,

Thank you for grace and forgiveness

Thank you for always being there

Even when things around us change

Help us remember you as we prepare for Advent

And to be thankful for the greatest gift of all

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

Thank you for Jesus

In His name, Amen!