Thursday

Matthew 27:27-44   A Crown of Thorns

Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?

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Question: What do you not understand?

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Application & Prayer: How will I respond?

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Conversation: Who can I share this with?

Saturday

Matthew 28:1-20   The Risen & Reigning King

Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?

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Question: What do you not understand?

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Application & Prayer: How will I respond?

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Conversation: Who can I share this with?

Friday

Matthew 27:45-66   The Death of the King

Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?

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Question: What do you not understand?

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Application & Prayer: How will I respond?

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Conversation: Who can I share this with?

Easter Sunday

A Kingdom of Resurrection People

Today, we celebrate the resurrection of our King from the dead, defeating sin and death and restoring to us access to the throneroom of our Creator. With that access - that citizenship in His Kingdom - comes precious relationship and purpose.

How has reading through Matthew deepened your understanding of Jesus and His Kingdom?

How have you grown in your relationship with Jesus this Lenten season?

What will it mean for you as an individual, and us as a community, to live as Resurrection People in the weeks and months ahead?

"Facing a Task Unfinished"

The hymn "Facing a Task Unfinished" was first written in the early 1930s by Frank Houghton, a pastor and missionary with China Inland Mission (now OMF), for the CIM Annual Meeting. In the precedeing decade, several colleagues had been martyred, while many others were evacuated due to increasing civil unrest and persecution. Upon rearranging the hymn, Keith Getty said, "Houghton understood that what we sing affects what we think, how we feel, what we pray for, and, ultimately, every decision we make in life. It is my prayer that by singing this song Christians around the world will get more excited about both music and mission, but also about living the mission of God on our own doorsteps and in our own kitchens, as well as around the world."

Facing a task unfinished that drives us to our knees,
A need that, undiminished, rebukes our slothful ease.
We, who rejoice to know Thee renew before Thy throne
The solemn pledge we owe Thee, to go and make Thee known.

Where other lords beside Thee hold their unhindered sway,
Where forces that defied Thee defy Thee still today,
With none to heed their crying for life, and love, and light
Unnumbered souls are dying and pass into the night.

We bear the torch that, flaming, fell from the hands of those
Who gave their lives proclaiming that Jesus died and rose.
Ours is the same commission, the same glad message ours,
Fired by the same ambition - to Thee we yield our powers.

O Father who sustained them, O Spirit who inspired,
Saviour, whose love constrained them to toil with zeal untired,
From cowardice defend us, from lethargy awake!
Forth on Thine errands send us to labour for Thy sake.

We go to all the world with Kingdom hope unfurled.
No other name has power to save, but Jesus Christ, the Lord!

Lenten Readings

The Gospel of Matthew: The King and His Kingdom

Last week, Jesus taught us how to live faithfully in the age of the invading Kingdom until His return. We also witnessed the responses of both His disciples and the religious leaders to this Messiah who didn't meet their expectations. In these final days leading up to our celebration of His Resurrection, we will contemplate the unfolding of their treason against the King of kings, the words and actions of Christ Jesus in response to this betrayal, and how His death and resurrection shape the way that we - His people, citizens of the Kingdom – live each day as we await His return and obey His command to "be fruitful and multiply", expanding the Kingdom to include disciples of all nations.

Wednesday

Matthew 27:1-26   Recognizing or Running from Responsibility

Observation: "Ah-ha!" What struck you?

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Question: What do you not understand?

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Application & Prayer: How will I respond?

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Conversation: Who can I share this with?