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## The Proclamation of the Kingdom – Conversion

*After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." – Mark 1:14-15*

### **Meditation:**

Jesus preached in the synagogues, streets and hills of Galilee, offering individuals the fulfillment of all their hopes and dreams. People listened, spellbound, as he told them how to gain entrance into this new kingdom: "Repent, turn around, and believe the Good news. God has made a way for you to come back to Him!"

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In our universal search for happiness, we have perhaps tried many things—some of which have left us in bondage, unable to break out of the prison that sin has created. Jesus knocks on our door, offering us the remedy. But we must do something—we must repent and believe, that He is the answer, the One who will lead us to true and complete freedom!

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*Dear Mother Mary, we place in your heart today all those enslaved to addiction and despair, who feel powerless over their lives and relationships. Lord Jesus, look with mercy upon all of us in our weakness and speak Your word of truth in our hearts. Through Mary's intercession, may Your Holy Spirit convict us of our sin, help us to repent, and enable us to believe and receive your Good News of true freedom. Amen.*

## The Carrying of the Cross

### Our Father

- It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your king!" – John 19:14
- They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." – John 19:15
- Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. – John 19:16
- So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. – John 19:16-17
- As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. – Luke 23:26
- A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. – Luke 23:27
- Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children," – Luke 23:28
- "for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.'" – Luke 23:29
- "At that time people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!'" – Luke 23:30
- "for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?" – Luke 23:31

### Glory Be

## The Crucifixion

### Our Father

- There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. – John 19:18
- Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews." – John 19:19
- When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them ... They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. – John 19:23
- So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be," in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled [that says]: "They divided my garments among them, / and for my vesture they cast lots." – John 19:24
- Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. – John 19:25
- When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." – John 19:26
- Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. – John 19:27
- After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." – John 19:28
- There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. – John 19:29
- When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit. – John 19:30

### Glory Be