

Luke 23:35-43

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

As the people stood by, watching, the rulers scoffed at Jesus, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ



**KING
OF KINGS AND
LORD
OF LORDS.**

(Revelation 19:16b)



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See

Theme of the Week Youth

Hear

See:

Mockery and Suffering: Jesus suffering on the cross while being mocked by rulers, soldiers, and one of the criminals.

The Two Thieves: two contrasting reactions to suffering: one criminal joins the mockery, while the other acknowledges his guilt and Jesus' innocence. **Jesus' Forgiveness:** Jesus' compassion, even in his pain, as he responds with a promise of "Paradise" to the repentant thief.

Think:

Redemption is Possible at Any Time: The story highlights that it's never too late to turn to God and ask for forgiveness, even in one's final moments.

True Kingship is Shown in Mercy: Jesus' power is not demonstrated by saving himself from the cross, but by offering boundless grace and mercy to the undeserving. This contrasts with the worldly ideas of power and strength.

Moral Choice Matters: The different responses of the two criminals show the power of personal choice and the importance of owning one's actions.

Forgiveness is Powerful: Forgiveness is a difficult but necessary step to move past ugliness and hurt, and it requires God's help.

Think

Hear:

Accusations and Taunts: hear the accusations: "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One".

The Repentant Thief's Plea: hear the repentant thief's words: "Do you not even fear God... We indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong" and his plea, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom".

Jesus' Promise: hear Jesus' direct promise: "Truly, I say to you, today you shall be with me in Paradise".

Do:

Practice Compassion and Forgiveness: strive to show love and forgiveness to others, even when it's difficult, modelling Jesus' example.

Acknowledge Wrongdoing: take responsibility for your mistakes, much like the repentant thief, rather than making excuses or blaming others.

Trust in God's Grace: learn to place your trust in Jesus, believing in his love and offer of salvation, regardless of your past.

Live as God's Representatives: make Jesus your "King each day, by doing what is right and good," and serving others, especially those in need.

Do