

Daily Reflection

April 3, 2020

Today's Daily Office readings include Psalm 22: <https://www.missionstclare.com/english/April/whole/morning/03m.html>
Although you may not think you know that one by heart, one of its lines is very, very familiar:

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (verse 1)

We will hear Jesus speak these words during the Passion Narrative on Palm Sunday and again on Good Friday. We will also hear echoes of verse 17:

"they divide my garments among them;
they cast lots for my clothing."

In John 19: 23-24, that is exactly what happens at Jesus' crucifixion. The soldiers divided Jesus' clothes, apart from the tunic, for which they cast lots. Jesus and the author of John both knew their psalms well. Jesus didn't have to reach for words to express his agony. They were embedded in his mind from years of common worship.

I never noticed before this week that Psalm 23, which has probably given more comfort to people over the centuries than any other part of the Bible, is placed right after the expressions of utter agony and hopelessness in Psalm 22. That cannot be an accident. The editors who chose the order had a purpose.

They knew life would leave us all feeling the laments of Psalm 22 at some point. They directed us to the only sure source for peace of mind, our Good Shepherd, who was willing to experience the worst this life has to offer. May we newly experience his trustworthiness as we enter the stories of Holy Week.

Pastor Kathleen Kelly,

Interim Rector

