

*Pondering in our Heart*  
**Scriptural Reflections on Mary**

**The Death of her Son - At the Foot of the Cross**  
**(Jn: 19:25-30; Lk 23:44-56)**

**John 19:25-30**

<sup>25</sup>Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' and from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

<sup>28</sup>After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**Lk 23:44-56**

<sup>44</sup>It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup>while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup>When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' <sup>48</sup>and when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup>But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

<sup>50</sup>Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, <sup>51</sup>had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup>This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup>Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. <sup>54</sup>It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. <sup>55</sup>The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. <sup>56</sup>Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

### *Pondering the Word*

- What does Jesus' concern for Mary as he was dying on the cross tell you about his relationship with his mother, both on a natural and supernatural level?
- How does John 19:25-27 help you understand Mary as "Mother of the Faithful," and "Mother of the Church"? In what way does John represent the church?

### *For Personal Reflection*

- Imagine yourself among those who accompanied Jesus on his journeys (Lk 8:2-3) and were present at Golgotha (Mk 15:40-41). What do you think was the impact on their lives from knowing Jesus and following him? How has following Jesus changed your own life?
- Jesus' own loving care for his mother is a model to us of how to serve others. The women showed their love and care for Jesus by their presence near the cross and by making preparations for his burial. How do you support those who are suffering a serious loss or grieving the death of a loved one? Recall and thank God for those who have "*stood near*" to you in times of difficulty or sorrow in your own life.

### *Prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
 who endured the shame and bitterness  
 of the way of the cross and the crucifixion,  
 yet reached out beyond your suffering  
 to unite your family and followers:  
 kindle in our hearts gratitude  
 for the love that moves beyond its own pain,  
 for the kindness that attends the distress of others,  
 for the forgiveness that releases from bondage.

Preserve, dear Lord, in love, all those  
 to whom we are bound by ties of family and affection;  
 refresh our homes with your abiding presence  
 and sanctify all our human relationships.  
 We pray that in the hour of our own trial,  
 when we are covered in darkness,  
 we may be strengthened by your kindly light.