

## **Lent Day 39**

Friday March 30, 2018

### **Reading:** John 19:16-30

<sup>25</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

### **Reflection**

We reflected somewhat on this section this morning in our Good Friday service. God is not unconcerned with the painful moments of our lives. Here in the middle of his crucifixion, as he's about to die, he sees his mother and has compassion for her. Mary has other children, but as oldest Jesus needs to make sure his mother is taken care of, so he puts her in the care of his disciple. At the same time he puts his disciple into his mother's care.

Notice how God's intention is to create community; whether Adam and Eve, Abraham's family, or the church. God is about communities. Relationships are so important and in the face of tragedy, they take on even more significance. Being a Jesus follower can have a cost. It used to be standard that to convert to Christianity was a guarantee you were cut off from your family, which is why the church community was so important.

That still happens today. To choose Jesus, to take following him seriously can alienate those around us. Our priorities fall out of step with the culture and we are seen as strange. Like we hear so often, people don't like what's different. This is why we are given the gift to not only believe in Jesus, but to be incorporated into his body. We are the new family of God.

### **Prayer**

Creator God, who has made us and redeemed us, thank you for the death of your Son so we might have life. Thank you for the gift of community, so we do not have to bear the burden of being out of step with the world alone. Help us to nurture these relationship and to stand strong together. Amen.