

## LITANY

### Meditation on the Cross

This is the wood of the cross,  
on which hung Jesus Christ, the eternal, Incarnate Word,  
who became obedient unto death.

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?  
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow  
which was brought upon me.

Can you drink the cup I will drink?

**Can we drink the cup you will drink?**

O my people, O my Church,  
what have I done to you,  
or in what have I offended you?

Testify against me.

I led you forth from the land of Egypt,  
and delivered you by the waters of baptism,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Can you drink the cup I will drink?

**Can we drink the cup you will drink?**

I led you through the desert forty years,  
and fed you with manna.

I brought you through tribulation and penitence,  
and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,  
but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Can you drink the cup I will drink?

**Can we drink the cup you will drink?**

What more could I have done for you  
that I have not done?

I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard,  
I made you the branches of my vine;  
but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink,  
and pierced with a spear the side of your Saviour.

Can you drink the cup I will drink?

**Can we drink the cup you will drink?**

I went before you in a pillar of cloud,  
and you have led me to the judgement hall of Pilate.  
I scourged your enemies and brought you  
to a land of freedom,  
but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me.  
I gave you the water of salvation from the rock,  
but you have given me gall and left me to thirst.

Can you drink the cup I will drink?

**Can we drink the cup you will drink?**

I gave you a royal sceptre,  
and bestowed the keys to the kingdom,  
but you have given me a crown of thorns.  
I raised you on high with great power,  
but you have hanged me on the cross.

Can you drink the cup I will drink?

**Can we drink the cup you will drink?**

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give,  
and washed your feet as a sign of my love,  
but you draw the sword to strike in my name,  
and seek high places in my kingdom.

I offered you my body and blood,  
but you scatter and deny and abandon me.

Can you drink the cup I will drink?

**Can we drink the cup you will drink?**

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you,  
and you close your hearts to the Counsellor.  
I pray that all may be as one in the Father and me,  
but you continue to quarrel and divide.

I call you to go and bring forth fruit,  
but you cast lots for my clothing.

Can you drink the cup I will drink?

**Can we drink the cup you will drink?**

I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel,  
and you turned on them with persecution  
and mass murder.

I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants,  
but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,

Can you drink the cup I will drink?

**Can we drink the cup you will drink?**

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters;  
I was hungry and you gave me no food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,  
naked and you did not clothe me,  
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

Can you drink the cup I will drink?

**Can we drink the cup you will drink?**