

## PART III

### Offering Ourselves to Christ Jesus on His Holy Cross

(Matthew 27: 33-37, 45-54)

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection, they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

#### Questions/Points for Reflection:

1. As you stand before Christ on His Cross, what do you think, and how do you feel?
2. Share with him the struggles that you have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Share with him the graces that you have received during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. How do you feel, at this time, moved to share in the loving mission of Jesus in your own life?

#### Prayer

My Lord, as you are before me, nailed to the Cross, I see the depth of your love amidst my sin and struggle. I offer you my trials. I offer you all the grace and gift that is within me. Show me Jesus how I might serve you. Show me how I might love, as you love, and give, as you give. Help me to be an offering to you, and your mission, as you offer Yourself for us all.