

## **GOOD FRIDAY 2026**

*“Jesus stays on the Cross”*

Today, on this stark and holy day, we are not asked to explain the Cross. We are asked to stand beneath it. There is a temptation—especially for people of faith—to make sense of suffering far too quickly, to wrap it in meaning, to rush toward resurrection, to soften its edges with explanations. But Good Friday resists that instinct. It strips away our words. It silences our answers. It leaves us with a single, unbearable truth: love does not always remove suffering. Sometimes, love chooses to remain in suffering.

Look at Jesus on the cross. Not as an idea. Not as a symbol. But as a man—abandoned, humiliated, and broken. The One who healed the sick now hangs wounded. The One who spoke truth is now silenced. The One who loved without measure is left alone. And here is the scandal: He does not come down from the cross. If there was ever a moment to prove divine power, this would be it! If there was ever a moment to end the pain, to silence the mockery, to rescue Himself, this would be it. And yet... Jesus stays on the cross.

Why? Because the deepest truth of God is not that He can escape suffering, but that He will not abandon us... within suffering. Every human heart knows something of Good Friday. We know what it is to feel discarded. We know what it is to carry something that cannot be fixed, cannot be explained, cannot be undone. We know the quiet cry: “Where are You, God?” And today, God answers not with words, but with His presence. He is here, on the cross! Not above suffering. Not distant from it. But inside it.

The Cross reveals a love that does not save us from pain by avoiding it, but by entering it completely. A love that does not turn away from our darkest moments but chooses to dwell there with us. A love that would rather be wounded with us... than remain untouched without us. This is not a comforting love. It is something far more demanding. Because if God is willing to remain in suffering out of love, then we are invited to do the same—not to seek suffering, not to glorify pain, but to refuse to abandon one another when suffering comes.

To stay. To remain when it is easier to walk away. To listen when there are no answers. To love when it costs something real. The Cross is not only something we look at. It is something we are drawn into. And so today, we do not rush forward. We do not skip ahead. We stay here at the foot of the cross. With Mary, who cannot take away her Son’s pain but refuses to leave Him. With John, who does not understand but remains faithful. With the broken, the grieving, the forgotten, whose lives echo this hour. We stay. Because this is where God has chosen to be. And if we have the courage to remain here—without answers, without escape, without certainty—then something will begin to change. Not the suffering itself, not yet, but the meaning of suffering. For the Cross tells us this: there is no place so dark, so abandoned, so filled with sorrow, that God will not enter it. And if He is there... then we are never alone.