

The greatest failure of all

Welcome

Song: My Lord What Love is this?



My Lord, what love is this
that pays so dearly,
that I, the guilty one may go free!

Amazing love! O what sacrifice,
the Son of God given for me!
My debt he pays and my death he dies
that I might live, that I might live.

2. And so they watched him die,
despised, rejected.

But O, the blood he shed
flowed for me!

3. And now this love of Christ
shall flow like rivers.

Come wash your guilt away, live again!

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

All Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All who made heaven and earth.

A period of silence for reflection

All Most merciful God,

we confess to you,

before the whole company of heaven and one another,

that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do.

Forgive us our sins,

heal us by your Spirit

and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

All Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Greatest Failure?

Jesus was criticised for mixing with failures.

He taught his disciples how to cope with failure.

He was used to the idea of people being failures.

But did Jesus ever fail?

The Sower—a parable about failure?

The cross—was it Jesus' failure?

Holy Saturday—a day of failure?

Questions for groups

Which Gospel story about failure speaks most clearly to you and why? (the failure of the disciples in their evangelism visits, the disciples who couldn't heal the sick boy, the woman found in adultery or the parable of The Sower?)

Was the cross a failure? How was it an end to all failures?

Does the idea of us 'living in Holy Saturday' speak to you? How do we live in the 'Now and not yet of life'? How is Holy Saturday related to Jesus telling his disciples, us, to take up our cross and follow him? How does the story of the 2 on the road to Emmaus help our understanding of this idea?

**Lighten our darkness,
Lord, we pray,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick,
give rest to the weary,
sustain the dying,
calm the suffering,
and pity the distressed;
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer. Amen

The Grace