

Each week during the Lenten season, one of the members of the Cathedral family will be offering a reflection on the Gospel. As Lent is a time of preparation, we hope that you will consider discussing this reflection with your son each week as well all prepare for the joy of Easter.

2026 CHS Lenten Reflections: Good Friday Jn 18:1 – 19:42

This Gospel is long and spiritually rich. It is an inexhaustible well of meaning, yet this year the themes of waiting and silence seemed to jump out at me more than any other. The gospels tell us that Jesus tried to prepare his disciples for this shocking and sad day (Matt 16:21). Still, this event completely shattered the disciples' plans. They lost the man in whom they put all their faith, taken violently and, to them, permanently. Thus, as the day ends, the disciples can only wait for something that has never happened before: a resurrection or a new beginning. The voice of their friend (Jn 15:12-17) that rang with hope and joy during their Passover supper is now deathly silent.

As the disciples must now wait through a time of confusion and uncertainty, we too must wait through confusing and uncertain times. The seniors are moving away from home for school. Parents, your sons are getting ready to leave home. All of us will experience unexpected disruptions to our lives and plans; all of us will deal with the curveballs of life. In each of these instances, we experience uncertainty, confusion, and even some helplessness. Turbulent times invite us to seek guidance from God or others, and yet we receive the silence of unanswered prayers or uncomforting advice. Here the Good Friday readings can teach us that the story is not over.

Good Friday instructs us to wait and hope. A lesson we might miss because of the immediacy of Easter. The story can look finished; our Phantom brothers are now spread across the world, our sons no longer need us right next to them, we cannot see any way forward. The tomb is closed. So now we sit and wait with our companions, the disciples and the weeping women of Jerusalem. Dare we hope and pray that our world might really be made new in three days?

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