

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. Luke 23:34

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

The shadow of the cross is upon us. Come to us, O God, in this shadow so that we might find solace, even as we participate in the crucifixions of the daily world. Be present, still our hearts and let us find our peace in you. Amen

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENT

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- * "The road is narrow. The one who wishes to travel it more easily must cast off all things and use the cross as their cane. In other words, they must be truly resolved to suffer willingly for the love of God in all things" - St. John of the Cross
- ❖ Must the Christian go around looking for a cross to bear, seeking to suffer? No, insisted Bonhoeffer. Opportunities for bearing crosses will occur along life's way and all that is required is the willingness to act when the time comes. The needs of the neighbor, especially those of the weak and downtrodden, the victimized and the persecuted, the ill and the lonely, will become abundantly evident. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Gather together to worship God!

People: We gather to reunite with God's purposes.

Leader: Gather together to walk with Christ!

People: We gather to make our way to the cross. Leader: Gather together as disciples committed to holy life!

People: We gather to find strength to carry the cross daily.

God of the Movements and Martys (vs 1 & 3) **PRAISE SONG:**

(music at end of bulletin)

THE CONFESSION:

All: Merciful Savior, forgive us our sins. We confess that we do not hold you close in our daily lives. We confess that we separate our decisions from your will. We confess that we insist on paths of destruction

rather than paths of life. We confess that we prefer to be admired rather than faithful. Forgive us we pray. Realign our wills with the way of the cross. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

God's hope for us is to be people of the cross. Be blessed with grace and peace for each day.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: Almost (music at end of bulletin)

THE READING: Mark 8:34-37

This story from Jesus life follows last week's gospel reading in the New Testament book of Mark. Here Jesus calls together the crowd and the disciples following Him. He suggests what it will mean to be one of His followers.

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

MESSAGE: I Do It Every Day! - Pastor David School

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: God, I Am Beaten, Battered and Bruised (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: May these forty days bring you new depth of God's vision. May you be a disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, even unto the Cross. Go forth to live and love as Christ does, each and every day. **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: Send Down the Fire (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



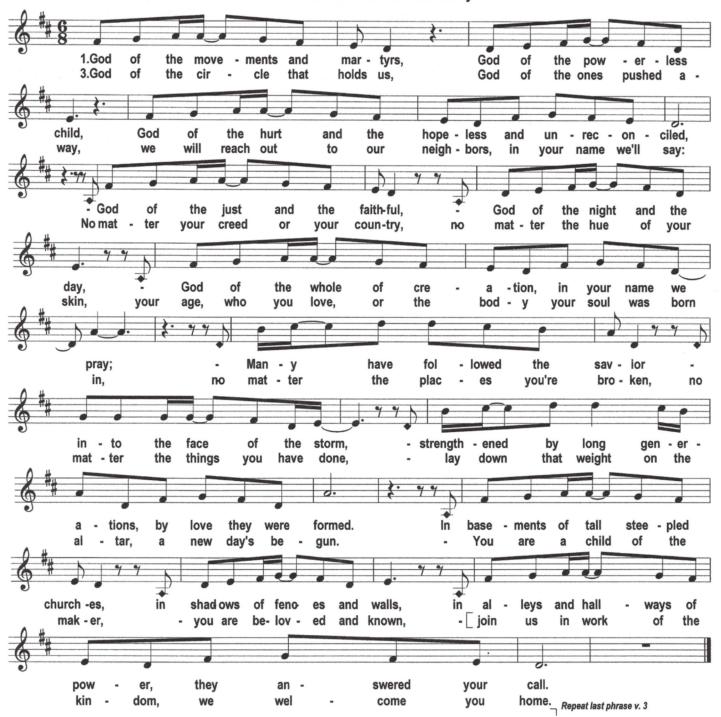
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God of the Movements and Martyrs





God, I am Beaten, Battered and Bruised



