

**Good Friday**  
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Yesterday on Holy Thursday we remembered how Jesus poured water over the disciple's feet – poured water over **our** feet. Today that water has changed to **tears**. Today we look to one another to help us embrace the pain. The pain of loving and the pain of loss. The more we love the deeper our loss will be. And we never know it as fully as when we stand beneath the cross.

This is the story of our Redemption. In the play Hamilton written by Lin Manuel Miranda there's a song that says, "Who lives, who dies, who tells your story?" I offer you three stories that reflect what Redemption mean. First is from Ann Rozalia Szabo, OP. I ran across a Good Friday reflection she wrote in 2008 in a congregation Lenten reflection booklet. Ann makes reference to John's description of the death of Jesus and writes, "What prompts this unconditional giving? I believe it is love. How can I take this example of unconditional love and reflect it in my own life?"

The second story is from my teaching partner when I was at Gabriel Richard, Riverview. He received the following text from a former student of over 30 years ago who said, "You were one of the most influential men in my life. Your teaching and kindness and education – saved me – many, many times throughout my life. It's certainly been a journey."

The third story is from an incarcerated man in Connecticut. This particular prison was featured in the TV program of 60 Minutes. The prison focuses on therapy

and self-improvement with the idea that rehabilitation will reduce re-offense. Men who are “lifers” become mentors to other inmates. When one of these men was asked by the interviewer, “What do you get out of this?” The man replied, **“Redemption. A reason to live and something to leave behind.”**

**So we take our pool of tears, walking to the grave, heads bowed before the cold, gray stones, in the shadow of sorrow and listen to the lessons of Redemption. We embrace our reason to live .... to love unconditionally as Jesus did and to leave behind that our story is not finished as it continues to unfold in the lives of people we have touched.**

Who lives?

Who dies?

**Who tells our story of Redemption?**