



Broken Vessels: Broken for you

Image: Worn by Micah Hayns

‘if a central aim of the Christian life is to help people encounter and enter into the dark night of faith, then Christian worship needs to hold together lament and praise, grief and glory’.

Kenneth Leech, We Preach Christ Crucified, pg 74

Matthew 27: 45-55

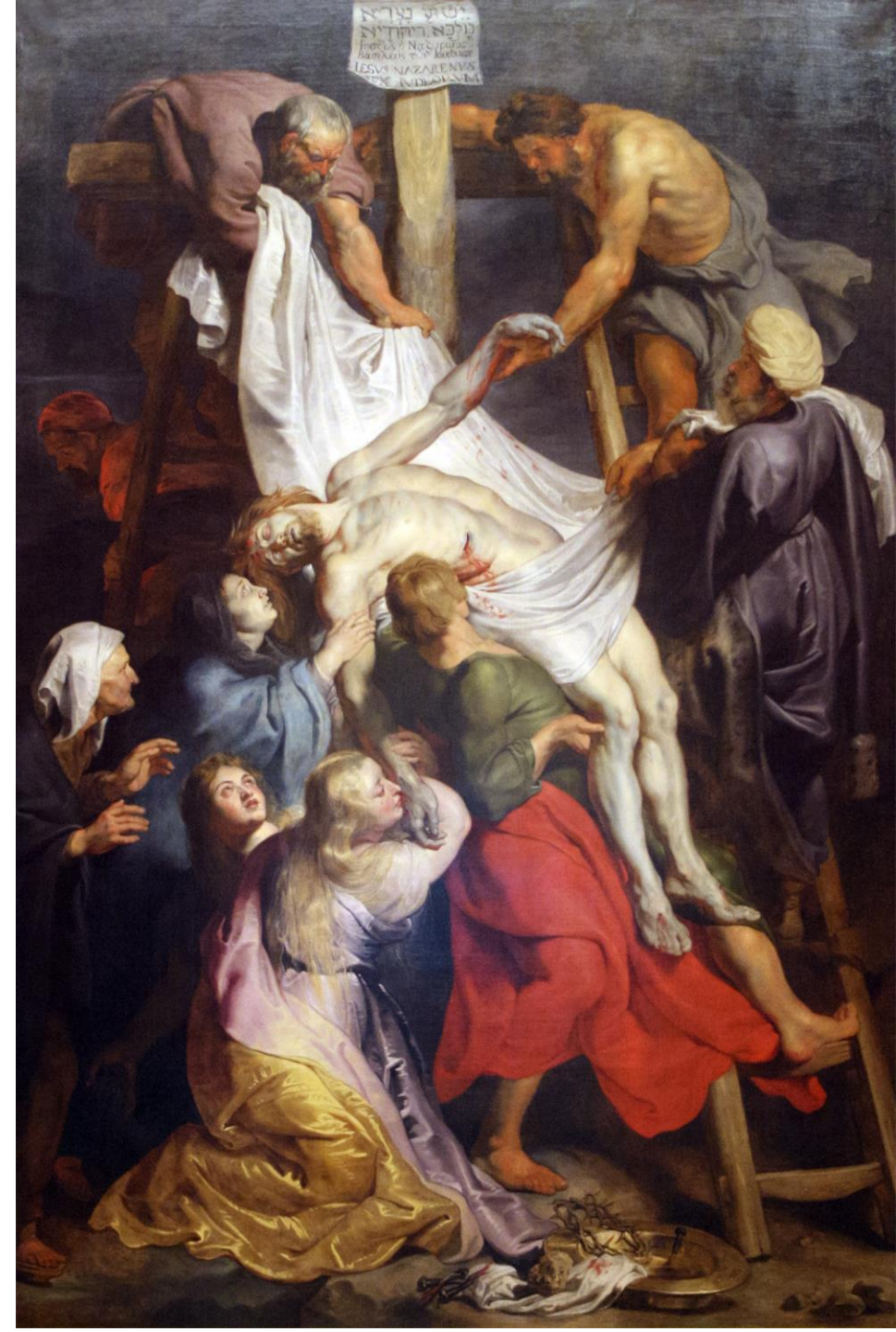
From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance.



*The Lamentation over the Dead Christ,
Alessandro di Mariano Filipepi Botticelli,
early 1490's*

*The Descent from the Cross,
Peter Paul Rubens, 1616-
1617*



Then Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it on a rock for herself, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell on them from the heavens; she did not allow the birds of the air to come on the bodies by day, or the wild animals by night

2 Samuel 21.10

Image: Micah Hayns





Loves Endeavour

Love that gives, gives ever more
Gives with zeal, with eager hands
Spares not, keeps not, all outpours
Ventures all, its all expands'.

WH Vanstone

A Prayer of Lament - Psalm 130

Out of the depths I have called to you, Lord, Let your ears be open to hear my voice.

All My hope is in God's word.

If you recorded all our sins who could come before you?

All My hope is in God's word.

There is forgiveness with you: therefore you shall be feared.

All My hope is in God's word.

My soul is longing for the Lord, more than those who watch for daybreak.

All My hope is in God's word.

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy.

All My hope is in God's word.

Father, we commend to your faithful love those who are crying from the depths; help them to watch and pray through their time of darkness, in sure hope of the dawn of your forgiveness and redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.