

Eternal God, who didst send your Son to be the Saviour of the world.
 We wait before Thee in the shadows of the Cross where He made the
 supreme sacrifice that lost men ^{men} might find their way back to Thee.
 We confess that the sins which killed Christ often besiege our hearts.
 We ^{see} ourselves in the varied company around Him on Golgotha. We know
 the mood of fear, jealousy, hatred, and love of power. Search us,
 O God, and reveal to us our evil ways that in full surrender to
 Thee we may be cleansed of all that corrupts our souls and separates
 us from Thee.

Forbid that ^{during} this day of His great agony, ^{which we call,} we should join the
 mob that watched Him there in morbid humor and pagan cruelty,
 Deliver us from the passive curiosity that waits a sign and
 the hypocrisy that joins the crowd to hide its emptiness. May
 Thy Spirit find us where we really are in human frailty,
 our lagging loyalty, and our lack of faith. May the Light that
 overcomes the darkness touch the unseen depths of our

hearts and of all cowardice and unworthy motives. May
He who came to make all things new begin in us now, and
continue with each passing day, that work of redemption
which shall give us the right to share in His resurrection
and this earth at last the heaven for which He taught us to pray
saying: